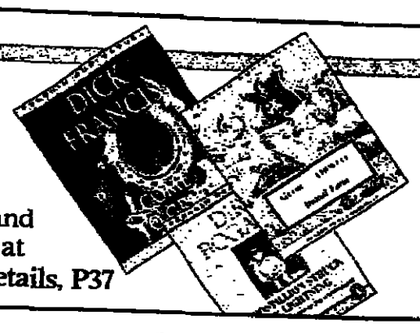
THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,533 THURSDAY MARCH 21 1996



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SECTION 3



Children may be particularly at risk

New infection linked to mad cow disease

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JEREMY LAURENCE

THE Government admitted for the first time yesterday that "mad cow" disease could be *transmitted* to people.

A new strain of the human form of the disease has been identified and the Government's chief adviser on the subject has said that it could turn into an epidemic.

The new findings, which *relate to ten people suffering* from a form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, were reported to ministers this week, prompting tighter controls on slaughtering cattle and a call for urgent guidance on whether children can safely eat beef.

CJD, which usually affects the elderly, is similar to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow" disease, but for the past decade the Government has refused to accept that it could be triggered by BSE.

Now, however, research into the ten cases has suggested a link and raised the prospect that the variant may be a wholly new disease. The patients were all under 42 and their symptoms were different from those of typical CJD.

Government experts said there was no way of telling how virulent the new condition would be or how many people would be susceptible. Dr John Pattison, chairman of the committee advising the Government on BSE, said that he had never seen the variant before. "It is totally unpredictable, but at one extreme there is a risk of an epidemic." And Dr Robert Will, head of the CJD Surveillance Centre, said: "I believe this is a new phenomenon. There is reason for major concern."

The new findings were reported provisionally to the Prime Minister on Monday and officially to the Cabinet yesterday morning. By then, the Government had arranged two Commons statements and a press conference attended by ministers and medical experts.

The evidence will also be presented to EU veterinary experts in Brussels on Friday. Brussels has threatened Germany with legal action if it went ahead with a ban on British beef, but there were *immediate* fears yesterday that the disclosure could damage the industry.

In his Commons statement, Stephen Dorrell said that there was still no scientific proof that "mad cow" disease could be transmitted to man *by beef, but he announced* further urgent research into possible links between BSE and CJD. The *Spongiform* Encephalopathy Advisory Committee was being asked to report on the risks to children by the weekend.

Mr Dorrell said: "The scientific evidence for the risks of developing CJD in those eating meat in childhood has not changed. However, parents will be concerned and I have asked the committee to provide specific advice."

As Tory MPs voiced concern about the effect on the beef trade, the Health Secretary said that it was as important "for us not to overreact as it is for us not to underreact."

But Labour's Harriet Harmansaid: "The time has passed for false reassurance. The question of whether there is a link between BSE and CJD is an issue of immense importance for consumers and particularly for parents of young children. The situation remains uncertain. But it's *now apparent there has* been too much reassurance and too little action."

And later a junior Scottish minister admitted that the Government may have been to blame for some farmers not slaughtering BSE-infected cattle in the late 1980s. The Earl of Lindsay conceded that the Government may have "unwittingly" tempted farmers not to destroy infected animals by failing to offer full compensation between 1986 and 1989. "In retrospect we possibly unwittingly allowed the temptation that some farmers may

Continued on page 2, col 8



Industry fears, page 2
Subtle differences, page 3
Leading article, page 21

PETER TRIEVNOR



Banbury cattle market prices were down by £10 a head yesterday; the auctioneer expects a further drop when cows ready for slaughter are sold today

It'll be a disaster, say the market forces

BY JOANNA BALE

WHEN a barmaid at Banbury cattle market warned a customer against eating her beef sandwiches yesterday, it wasn't "mad cow" disease that she had in mind. "I'm afraid the beef's a bit fatty today. I'd go for the ham or the egg if I were you."

Next door, in ring one, farmers were counting the cost of Stephen Dorrell's equally frank revelation that there might after all be a risk of humans contracting CJD from infected meat.

The market's managing director, Jim Watson, had switched off his mobile phone to enable him to work after a stream of calls from worried farmers. "It's the same every time we have a BSE scare," he said. "Prices are down and it will be worse tomorrow when we sell the fat cattle that are ready for slaughter. I've been getting lots of calls from farmers wondering whether it's worth coming to sell their livestock tomorrow."

According to Mr Watson, whose market is the biggest in Europe, prices for a beef steer worth £500 were down by £10.

Like every beef farmer, Mr Watson believes that the meat is "100 per cent safe". He said: "This is disastrous for us. Only a handful of people die from CJD yet all this fuss is made and the public react. The Government should concentrate on big killers like cancer and heart disease."

But as Mr Watson tried to generate interest in a frightened friesian, farmer John Elkington declared: "I'm keeping my hands in my pockets today. I'll not be bidding."

Mr Elkington, who farms in Bicester, added: "I rang up my exporters this morning to see what they wanted and they just said don't bother. They might not even want the stuff I bought from them last week which has already been slaughtered. It'll just have to stay in the deep freeze."

Rachel Fyfe, 30, who farms with her husband in Market Harborough, studied the collapse of the beef market after BSE while a student at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester. She said: "The Government are just covering their backsides, but they know that the research is also tenuous. Until it is ever proved beyond all doubt, they should not scare people like this; after all there is a risk in everything we eat.

"We will lose so much *money, both in the domestic* and the export industry. The rest of Europe claims it doesn't have BSE, but it's pretty likely that farmers in Europe have it and quietly get rid of the affected cows."

But one 71-year-old man who has been in beef farming all his life, said: "People who will be put off by this will have already stopped eating beef, but most will continue to enjoy it. There's nothing like a juicy piece of roast beef."

Oftel cuts BT phone bills

New price-cap proposals from Oftel, the telecommunications regulator, will ensure that British Telecom customers will see their phone bills fall from an average of £50 a quarter to about £30 over the next five years. BT said that it was "disappointed" because the proposals are tighter than anticipated. If they are rejected *Oftel will seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission* inquiry..... Page 25

America agrees to arm Taiwan

America further inflamed China by agreeing to sell Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other high-tech weapons to Taiwan although it refused submarines.....Page 14

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Drug dealers face six years minimum

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PERSISTENT burglars face a *minimum of three years in* prison and repeat drug dealers at least six years under tough new sentencing plans being proposed by Michael Howard.

The Home Secretary is also to end the practice by which the length of time a prisoner spends on remand is automatically included as part of a jail sentence. Instead, the judges will be given discretion to take the months on remand into account when imposing a sentence.

Prisoners will be allowed to earn a maximum of about 17 per cent remission of their sentences through good behaviour while in jail under the changes.

Mr Howard wants to publish a White Paper on his proposals before Parliament rises for Easter. The seven-chapter draft document, which will be discussed by the Cabinet today, includes proposals for automatic life sentences for second-time rapists, armed robbers and serious sexual offenders.

It also includes proposals to make every prisoner serve the full sentence imposed by the judge, unless he earns remission, overturning the present situation in which a person given a four-year sentence is released automatically after two years.

However, it is Mr Howard's plan to bring in minimum sentences of three years for people convicted of burglary three times and at least six years for those convicted twice of dealing in Class A drugs that will bring a sharp rise in the prison population. Class A drugs include heroin, cocaine and LSD. It has been estimated that the overall effect of Mr Howard's sentencing proposals will be to increase the jail population, now at a record 54,000, by at least 10,000.

Twelve jails each holding 800 prisoners and costing a total of more than £1.2 billion will need to be built to cater for the impact of the sentencing proposals. They will all be built by private finance and are in addition to new jails already planned for Fazakerley in Liverpool, Bridgend in South Wales, Telford in the Midlands, Salford in Greater Manchester and another in Essex.

Minimum jail terms will apply only to offenders convicted of crimes committed after the new sentencing regime starts and the Government believes the full effect of the proposals will not be reached until 2013.

The measures will be phased in. Automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and armed robbers will be introduced first, followed by real-time sentences and finally *the minimum jail terms for* burglars and drug dealers.

Station offers first class marriage lines

THE platform announcement *came 50 years too late for the couple from Brief Encounter* but yesterday a British railway station unveiled plans to conduct marriage ceremonies.

Couples can now hop on a Eurostar for a Paris honeymoon after tying the knot at Ashford International station.

The £265 ceremonies, to be conducted in Ashford's first class departure lounge, were announced when Kent County Council agreed to grant Eurostar a licence to hold civil weddings. There is room for *up to 60 guests in the navy* and orange room.

England brothers play in Charltons' footsteps

BY PETER BALL

TERRY VENABLES, the England manager, revived a great English football tradition yesterday when he named Gary and Philip Neville, the young Manchester United defenders, in his squad for next Wednesday's friendly against Bulgaria at Wembley. If they play, they will be the twentieth pair of brothers to win England caps, and the first to do so since Bobby and Jack Charlton.

The Charltons played together on 28 occasions between 1965 and 1970, including the 1966 World Cup Final. Bobby won the first of his 106 caps soon after the 1958 Munich disaster, while Jack was 30 by his first appearance.

The Nevilles have done it rather more quickly. Gary, 21, won the first of his 6 caps against Japan last summer before he had played a full season in the Premiership. Philip, who was 19 in January, has risen even more quickly, coming into the squad three months after establishing himself in the United team. They are inheritors of a proud tradition dating back to the 1870s, when Sheffield Wednesday's Clegg brothers, Charles and William, won caps in 1872 and 1873 respectively. Over the next ten years Ernest, Charlie and Arthur Bambridge became the only trio of brothers to be capped by England.

Most of the 19 pairs were capped before 1900, but Clem Stephenson and George appeared together in the 1920s, and Jack and Sep Smith in the 1930s.

In the 1970s Brian Greenhoff won 18 caps, but his brother Jimmy was not so honoured. Nor, in a full international, was Denis Compton. He played for England in wartime internationals. Leslie went on to win two caps but Denis was distracted by cricket — to some effect.



Denis and Leslie Compton, Jack and Bobby Charlton and Philip and Gary Neville

England team, pages 45, 48



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Vital questions for consumer safety

Is it safe to eat beef after the latest scientific findings?

The Government insists that it is. Even if there is now evidence that BSE can pass to humans, they say, the public remains protected because all the parts of the carcass that could conceivably carry infection have to be removed at the slaughterhouse before beef goes into the food chain. The prohibited items are brain, spine, thymus, tonsils, spleen and intestine.

Are the slaughterhouse controls adequate?

They had to be tightened last November after some abattoirs were found to be not fully removing spinal cord. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, says they are now to be tightened further. Also, any meat from animals over 30 months old will have to be deboned in specially licensed plants, a requirement previously only for exported meat.

What, if anything, can beef eaters do to protect themselves?

Those who want 100 per cent assurance of safety should stop eating beef, although this is not as easy as it seems. Material from cattle can find its way into products as diverse as chicken soup, wine sauce, lamb stock cubes and jellies. Food manufacturers insist, however, that they do not use any of the prohibited items.

Are some types of beef safer than others?

Most scientists say good steak or roast beef carries little if any risk. Only 15 per cent of pure beef herds have ever had BSE and BSE has never been found in the muscle meat of cattle. But much of Britain's meat comes from dairy cows. Half of all dairy herds have been affected by BSE. Dairy meat tends to go into cheaper products, such as pâtés and meat pies. Those who want to play safe while still eating beef should avoid meat products of whose origin they cannot be sure.

Is any age group more at risk?

CJD, the human counterpart to BSE, has traditionally been a rare disease of the elderly, affecting about one in a million people worldwide. In recent years, an unusually large proportion of CJD cases in Britain has occurred in people under 42. It is the ten CJD cases from this age group that the Government now says were probably caused by eating BSE-infected meat.

When did the infection occur?

Between 1986, when the first case of BSE was officially diagnosed in cattle, and November 1989, when abattoir controls were put into effect; or so the Government thinks. Since 1989 the abattoir controls should have fully protected the public. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done now about exposure to infection before November 1989.

Is the incidence of CJD higher in UK than elsewhere?

No. The disease, first diagnosed in the 1920s, occurs with roughly the same frequency everywhere. However, the incubation period for the disease is anything from 10 to 20 years. So if BSE has passed to a significant number of humans, it could take many years for this to show up as a big increase in cases of CJD.

Does CJD affect any particular occupation?

The evidence is inconclusive despite a statistically unusual cluster of cases among dairy farmers during the past four years. But dairy farmers also show an unusual tendency to go down with the disease in countries where there is no BSE.

Knackers and offal merchants feed the hysteria

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

A test for anyone tempted by a career in politics: read aloud without hesitation, in a manner which virtually the whole Cabinet on the front bench beside you could admire, "Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee." Now say "bring together leading experts in neurology, epidemiology and microbiology to provide scientifically based advice on the implications of different forms of spongiform encephalopathy".

Keeping up? Try, next, at speed "the Goverment Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh which specialises in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease".

We picture the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, practising these lines with his civil servants while trying to master his brief between lunch and 3.30 yesterday. He came through with flying colours. Dorrell's performance will have done nothing to harm his quietly growing reputation.

Then things fell apart. Dorrell urged MPs to steer clear of party politics. MPs steered straight into them.

You or I would have feared the worst: that Labour might seize with hysteria on this issue as a stick with which to beat the Government, adding to public alarm; and that Tory backbenchers would leap mindlessly to the defence of "the industry" — their farming pals, as well as slaughterers, bonemeal crushers and other adored members of the community.

We might fear Labour would then accuse the Tories of being "the farmer's friend" and the Tories accuse Labour of hatred towards agriculture.

All our fears would have been justified. Tory backbenchers behaved yesterday as though the greater part of the electorate were composed of knackers and offal-merchants, plus a heavy contingent of butchers in all the marginal seats. Labour behaved as though Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were sweeping the nation like the Black Death while government ministers peddled infected hamburgers on every corner.

Harriet Harman, Dorrell's Shadow, spoke first. She operates in only one mode: maximum reproach. "Public confidence is hanging on a thread," she declared, then did her best to cut it. "Would the Government's Chief Medical Adviser feed beef to *his* grandchildren?"

"Or send them to grammar schools?" cackled Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster).

"We need to restore public confidence," cried Harman. We sure did, after her remarks. I decided beef must be safe to eat, after all.

Then Paul Marland, chairman of the Tory backbench agriculture committee, rose, wonderfully groomed and suited as ever. Mr Marland, who turned 57 on Tuesday, shows no signs of CJD, but the colour of his eyebrows is departing alarmingly from the rich brown of his hair. Is he eating too much beef?

Marland sneered at Labour's response. By the time he sat down, I felt sure Labour must be right.

Labour's Harry Barnes (Derbyshire NE) spied a government conspiracy to conceal the dangers. I began to sympathise with the Government. Christopher Gill (C, Ludlow), who comes from a family of butchers, deplored the alarm. I began to share the alarm. Harold Elletson (C, Blackpool N) said Labour were dominated by "extreme vegetarian anti-farming activists". I sympathised again with Labour.

It was once said of Tsar Nicholas II that the two most powerful men in Russia were the Tsar, and the last person he had spoken to. Where BSE is concerned, and in a strangely different way, my opinion too depended on the last politician I had heard.

Farmers await further fall in a market still suffering from previous scare

Beef industry fears public panic over 'mad cow' disease

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE multibillion-pound beef industry was bracing itself yesterday for a wave of consumer panic and plunging sales after the admission by the Government that some people probably have been infected with "mad cow" disease.

Cattle farmers are still recovering from the previous scare over BSE — bovine spongiform encephalopathy — which caused beef sales to fall by 20 per cent last December. Sales are still down by 13 per cent on this time last year.

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said: "This a very serious development. Restoring consumer confidence is now paramount. I am glad the Government has acted promptly on the new scientific advice and welcome the Health Secretary's statement that beef is still safe to eat."

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told the Commons that controls on slaughterhouses would be tightened to ensure that no potentially infected meat reached consumers. In addition, meat from all cattle over 30 months old, which are at greater risk of developing BSE, will have to be deboned in specially licenced plants. This was previously required only for exported beef.

The latest developments cast a shadow over the future of an industry that is still hugely valuable, despite a long-term decline in beef consumption, which has dropped from 20 kilograms per head in 1980 to 15.5kg today. BSE has played a part in this slide, but more significant until now has been the cheapness of competing meats, such as chicken.

SALES THREAT

Household purchases of beef, including processed products, totalled about £4 billion last year, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission. Britain also exported 242,000 tonnes of beef, worth £520 million. Nearly four fifths went to other countries in the European Union.

The industry supports 41,000 dairy farmers and 95,000 beef farmers. More than two thirds of British beef output comes from the dairy herd, either from male animals or from cows culled at the end of their milking life, a big element in the export trade. About 15,000 people work in abattoirs (other than poultry plants) and 3,000 in the animal by-products processing industry.

So far BSE has had little impact on exports, which have risen steadily in recent years. France, which took 98,000 tonnes of British beef last year, has resisted pressure from Germany for a ban on British beef unless it is certified to come from BSE-free herds. But the latest disclosures could reopen the debate about the risk to public health.

The best EU markets last year after France were Italy (27,200 tonnes), Ireland (24,100 tonnes) and the Netherlands (17,845 tonnes). Germany imported only 1,500 tonnes. South Africa (27,055 tonnes) was the main destination outside the EU.

Ian Gardiner, the NFU's director of policy, called for a "rational and cool" response to the latest scientific findings. Even if some recent deaths from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were linked to BSE, he said, this did not mean that beef now in the shops was a risk.

"All those parts of the animals which contain the BSE agent are removed from the food chain at the slaughterhouse," he said. "I see nothing in today's announcement to indicate that any beef which people can now buy would be infected with BSE."

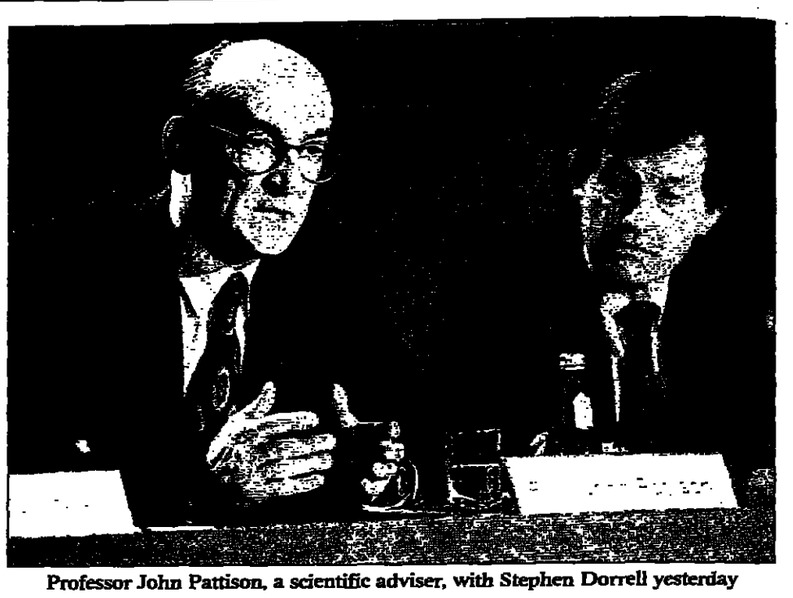
Ray Darlington, executive officer of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents butchers and small slaughterhouses, said: "We are still examining the ministers' statements. Obviously we are very concerned about the implications for our businesses."

What makes BSE potentially so disastrous is that dairy herds, the biggest source of British beef, have been much more affected than beef herds. More than half of dairy herds have had at least one case of BSE, compared with only 15 per cent of beef herds.

Since BSE was first diagnosed, 158,882 head of cattle showing symptoms of the disease have been destroyed, nearly all of them dairy cows, at a cost of £130 million in compensation payments for farmers. At the peak of the epidemic up to 1,000 new cases were being reported every week. The rate is now running at about 250 a week.

The disease is thought to have passed to cattle in meat and bonemeal containing the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, a condition related to BSE. The infection was recycled through the cattle herd because sheep remains were used in cattle feed. All feed of this kind was banned in July, 1988. This should have cut off the primary source of infection.

Leading article, page 21



Professor John Pattison, a scientific adviser, with Stephen Dorrell yesterday

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Brussels caught in a dilemma

From Our Foreign Staff

EUROPEAN DIMENSION

VETERINARY experts from across the European Union will examine the news on British beef in Brussels tomorrow. The Commission will take advice from the veterinary committee on whether more steps are needed to protect consumers from any risks, a spokesman said.

The Commission has backed the British argument that there is no evidence of a human health hazard in the consumption of BSE-infected beef. "If the scientists say more action is needed then more action will be taken," a spokesman for Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said.

In a measure similar to one operating in Britain, sale of British beef offal has been banned in Europe since 1990 as a safeguard. The European authorities are in a delicate position over British beef. The Commission has resisted attempts by some continental authorities to take measures against imports and it backs the British Government argument that there is no evidence of any link between Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and BSE.

Last month it began proceedings against the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate after it banned British beef on the ground that the action was an illegal barrier to trade. On the other hand, the Commission has cited consumer fears as a factor in its decision to extend a ban on the import of American beef from cattle raised with growth hormones.

Bonn will now come under pressure to tighten the terms of a European compromise placing some curbs on British beef. The British statement may help the German Government to wriggle out of its dilemma. "If a national level ban on imports were legally possible, the federal government would have done it long ago," Horst Seehofer, the Health Minister, said.

Only a tiny handful of cases of BSE have been discovered in French cows, but in recent months the French press and scientific community have begun focusing on the possible dangers of British beef. Last month the French National Academy of Medicine emphasised the "persistence of mad cow disease in the United Kingdom". It called for a ban on the sale in France of beef offal from cows aged less than six months originating in Britain.

Public confidence hanging by a thread, says Labour

By Alice Thomson and James Landale

LABOUR accused the Government yesterday of giving the public "false reassurance" in the past over the possibility of "mad cow" disease spreading to humans.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, urged ministers to restore public confidence by publishing all the new scientific evidence which linked bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).

And in a clear reference to John Gummer, the former Agriculture Minister, Ms Harman added: "There must be no more photocalls from ministers feeding beefburgers to their children."

In a heated Commons debate on the two ministerial statements, Ms Harman told Stephen Dorrell, Health Secretary, that he had lost public confidence and that people would not be satisfied with "Government platitudes".

She said public confidence was "hanging by a thread" and urged the Government to give people "the full facts and honest advice" on which to base their decisions. "That relies on the Secretary of State giving full disclosure of the scientific evidence and clear advice and guidance. The time has passed for false reassurance," she said.

She added: "If we do not have full information and full disclosure of the facts, the public's response will be fear and that will then be stoked up by ignorance and innuendo." Ms Harman said that possible dangers of BSE-infected beef were of immense importance particularly for parents of young children and for hundreds of thousands of people working in the farming and meat industry.

"The situation remains uncertain. But it's now apparent there has been too much reassurance and too little action," she said. Mr Dorrell replied that it was as vital not to overreact as to under-react.

Tory MPs lined up to praise the Government for its swift action to inform the public about new evidence and condemned Labour for "scaremongering". Paul Marland (Gloucestershire W), a farmer and chairman of the Tory backbench agriculture committee, said the meat industry had had health scares before. "Very often we've discovered in this House in the past that the rumour is very different from the reality," he said.

THE COMMONS

Neil Hamilton (C, Tatton) and Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster) said the Government should not panic and accused Labour risking the livelihoods of farmers. Dame Elaine said: "Beef is an important industry in every village and rural area in the land. It is important that nobody should stir up unnecessary panic."

Sir Archie Hamilton (C, Epsom and Ewell) said Labour had shown that it was "not the farmer's friend".

John Greenway (C, Ryedale) warned of the potentially "calamitous" effect on British farmers if the new evidence was reported irresponsibly by the press. "There is no less reason to have confidence in British beef today or tomorrow as there was yesterday." He urged Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, not to hesitate in moving "swiftly to support the market".

Christopher Gill (C, Ludlow), who comes from a family of butchers, urged the Government to show restraint before scaring the country. "The risks of catching CJD are infinitesimal," he said.

Dr Gavin Strang, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, said the important lesson to learn was not to allow the BSE agent to get into food. "It is crucial that animals which display the symptoms of BSE are not slaughtered for food," he said.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, asked whether schools and hospitals should now stop serving beef. Glenda Jackson (Lab, Hampstead and Highgate) said that the Government's attitude over beef could threaten children. Mr Dorrell said that at present no institutions needed to withdraw beef products from their menus.

New form of CJD

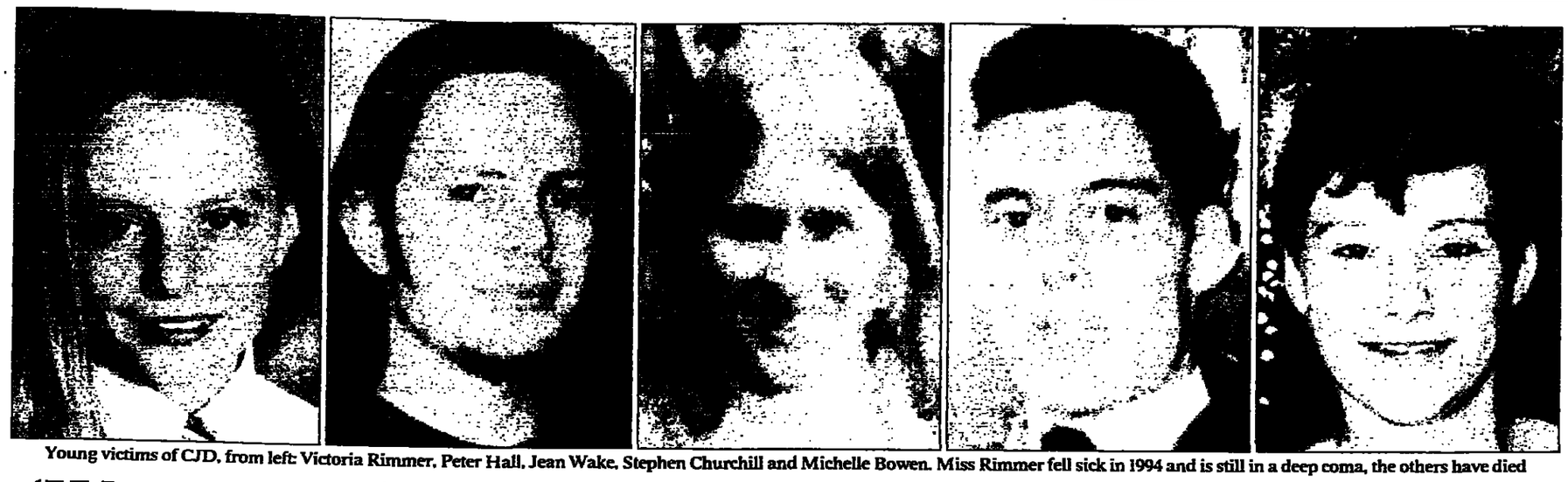
Continued from page 1

have succumbed to," he told peers. The Shadow Agriculture Secretary Gavin Strang described his words as "a remarkable admission".

In the second Commons statement, Douglas Hogg detailed fresh safeguards for slaughterhouses and animal feeds. The Agriculture Minister also promised existing controls would be "even more vigorously enforced". Under the new rules, carcasses from cattle aged over 30 months must be deboned in specially licensed plants supervised by the Meat Hygiene Service and the trimmings kept out of any food chain. The use of mammalian meat and bonemeal in feed for all farm animals is being banned.

The announcements were triggered by a report on ten CJD victims which said: "The most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the introduction of the specified bovine offal ban in 1989." It concluded: "The risk from eating beef is now likely to be extremely small and there is no need for it to revise its advice on milk".

Dr Pattison admitted that the committee had agonised over whether there was an alternative explanation. "We have thought this through over and over because it would have been much more reassuring to come to a different conclusion. But putting the unusual symptoms together with the different pathology made it inescapable."



Young victims of CJD, from left: Victoria Rimmer, Peter Hall, Jean Wake, Stephen Churchill and Michelle Bowen. Miss Rimmer fell sick in 1994 and is still in a deep coma, the others have died

'We were told it was a disease of the old. It isn't now'

BY KATE ALDERSON AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE mother of a meat pie maker who died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease yesterday brandished a letter from 10 Downing Street rejecting any link with BSE.

"I should make it clear that humans do not get 'mad cow disease', although there are similar diseases which occur naturally in humans and have been known about for very many years," the Prime Minister's Private Secretary, Rachel Reynolds, wrote on his behalf last October. "I must reassure you that there is no evidence to suggest that eating meat causes this sort of illness in people."

A month later Jean Wake, 38, died with her daughter Leighann, 15, and mother Nora Greenhalgh, 75, at her bedside. "I didn't believe him then and I don't believe him now," said Mrs Greenhalgh of Sunderland. "I was always convinced that Jean's illness was caused by eating infected beef and had a lot to do with her time working in a factory putting the fillings into pies.

"This was a deliberate cover up to avoid tarnishing the reputation of British beef. The decision to keep people in the dark was motivated by money."

VICTIMS

Peter Hall, a student from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, died four weeks ago, just before his 21st birthday. He was a vegetarian but ate beefburgers as a child. His mother Frances said: "Even if they say there is just a good chance BSE can be passed on to humans they should err on the side of caution."

Michelle Bowen died aged 29 last November three weeks after her son Tony was born by Caesarean section. She had worked in a butcher's as a teenager.

Her husband Anthony, of Harpurhey, Manchester, said he feared his baby son might also die. "I've spoken to several experts. One in particular believes I have a case against the Government for negligence as they have never really thrown their full weight behind a comprehensive research campaign."

Stephen Churchill, 19, a student from Devizes, Wiltshire, died in May last year 12 months after becoming depressed and dizzy. His mother Dot told Radio 4's *The World at One*: "We would like to have an independent inquiry. The disease itself is changing. It is attacking younger people. We were told it was a disease of the 50 to 70-year-olds and it isn't any more."

Ann Richardson of Liverpool died aged 41 two months ago. Her husband Ronny is also considering legal action.

Freda Neild, 65, died eight years ago. Her daughter Sandra Galloway, 52, a Doncaster nurse who founded the CJD Support Network, said: "We need a public inquiry into what is causing these deaths and if CJD is not caused by eating beef then we need to know what on earth does cause it."

The grave of one young CJD victim was dug to a depth of nine feet last year instead of the usual six. Gravediggers were issued with protective clothes and surgical gloves at the funeral of Maurice Callaghan, 30, of Belfast.

Victoria Rimmer, 18, a kennel worker, of Connah's Quay, Clwyd, was the first teenager diagnosed with CJD. She fell sick in 1994 aged 16 and is still in a deep coma. Her relatives have always blamed hamburgers.

Risk from eating beef 'no longer zero'

Subtle differences led scientists to link BSE with humans

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TEN patients below the age of 42 provided the smoking gun that pointed to a link between mad cow disease and its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Subtle differences in symptoms and in brain pathology enabled the CJD Surveillance Unit at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh to distinguish between these patients and those suffering the normal form of CJD. By doing so, they identified what Stephen Dorrell, the Health Minister, yesterday called "a previously unrecognised and consistent disease pattern".

The patients had an average age of onset of 27, compared with over 63 for the normal form of CJD. The early symptoms of the new form include anxiety and depression, while those of classical CJD in many ways resemble Alzheimer's disease, starting with forgetfulness and uncharacteristic behaviour. In addition, the new form shows signs of developing more slowly. In typical CJD, death follows within six months of onset, but in the new form sufferers survive for 13 months.

The final distinction is one of pathology. CJD can be diagnosed with complete confidence only after death, by the spongy appearance of the brain tissues under the microscope and the presence of the so-called prion protein in the brain. Dr Robert Will of the CJD unit said that the new strain was characterised by larger than normal quantities of this protein. "This was very consistent and very striking," he said.

THE EVIDENCE

The assumption is that the cases of CJD in the ten younger patients derived from BSE-contaminated meat eaten between the first appearance of BSE in 1985/86 and the banning in 1989 of the sale of brain and spinal cord. While the advisory committee believes that the risk from eating beef today is extremely small, nobody can any longer claim that it is zero.

However, the major risk arose between 1986 and 1989, when all beef-eaters may have been exposed to BSE-infected meat. The numbers of infected cattle in those years was fortunately small, totalling no more than about 10,000, as the epidemic slowly gained in strength. (In the peak year after the ban, 36,681 cows were affected.)

So the risk depends on how much of the beef consumed in those years was infected, and how easily the infection can be passed on to man. Neither question can yet be answered. Nor is it possible to say for how long the risk will last for those people who did eat infected meat.

The only comparable situation for which data is available is Kuru, a disease suffered by the Fore highlanders of Papua New Guinea, who until 1960 practised a ritual form of cannibalism. This disease, which may originally have arisen spontaneously, was spread from generation to generation by eating the remains of close relatives.

The average survival for Kuru sufferers was 16 months, considerably longer than for the usual form of CJD but closely similar to the new one. The incubation period for Kuru was in some cases as short as four years, and in others as long as several decades. Although cannibalism stopped in 1960, and nobody is thought to have been infected by the disease after that, people in Papua New Guinea still die of it.

If the new form of CJD follows this pattern, it will be almost the middle of next century before we can be sure that no more new cases will emerge.

Guessing how many cases there will be is equally impossible. If we are lucky, the "species barrier" will have been high enough for only a few people a year to be infected. If we are not, and the incubation period is long, these first ten deaths may represent the foothills of a rising curve of cases that will not peak for decades.

☐ Food retailers were last night planning a public relations offensive to try to reassure shoppers that British beef products are safe for human consumption. High Street retailers said they would be briefing their staff to cope with an anticipated surge in questions from customers. They hope an information campaign will avert a catastrophic fall in sales.

In 1985, the year before BSE was identified in cattle, 1.13 million tonnes of beef were consumed in Britain. Last year the figure was 888,000, a drop of 19 per cent.

Manufacturers pledged yesterday to make it crystal clear that beef would be clearly identified as an ingredient in product packaging. Beef can be contained in products as diverse as jelly, wine sauce and chicken broth.

A spokesman for the Meat and Livestock Federation said: "We will have to do a lot of explaining to avoid any hysteria. This will not be good."

BY-PRODUCTS OF A COW

Main joints: rump, fillet, sirloin, brisket, shin, neck and clod, chuck and blade, middle, fore and prime ribs, silverside, topside, flank, skirt and leg. Food experts agree red muscle beef is less likely to carry BSE than meat made from waste products. However campaigners believe no cut is safer and say household cooking will not destroy BSE agent

Mechanically Recovered Meat (MRM): the remaining edible tissue removed by a giant stripper and used in pies, burgers, soups, stews, sausages and pates. The law allows up to 20% beef in a pork sausage. Beef also present in lamb and chicken processed meats. Campaigners claim the risk of infection is greater from these products, made from older cows and stripped carcasses

Skin, tendons and ligaments: boiled to make gelatin, used in jellies, biscuits, pies, ready meals and sausage skins. Also in capsules, glue, match heads and photographic processes. The prolonged boiling process is assumed to kill BSE, but campaigners say the evidence has not been seen

Hide: leather. Vellum

Vertebrae: banned from use in MRM. Can be used in gelatin and suet

Bones: beef bone stock in gravy and stock, including lamb and chicken

Tallow (beef fat): dripping, casseroles, chicken stews, dumplings and soups

Beef extract: frankfurters. Peperami

Elastin: a protein uniting muscle fibres in meat. Moisturisers

Glycerol: fat product used as flavouring and texture improver

Keratin: protein in hair, horns and hooves used in shampoos, conditioners and fertilisers

Lactose: the sugar derived from milk, tablet fillers, sweeteners and carrier for flavouring agents in crisps

Dairy: milk, cream, cheese, whey yoghurt

Oleoic oil: liquid from pressed tallow, margarines

Oleostearin: solid from pressed tallow, soaps and candle making

Rennet: extract of calf stomach. Clots milk

Stearic acid: Organic acid used to soften skin in lipstick, moisturiser, eye shadow

Stearate: salt of stearic acid, used in body building supplements

Banned fom sale as food: brain, spinal cord, intestines, spleen, tonsils and thymus gland. All banned from sale as food. Government scientists fed brain and spinal cord to laboratory mice, who became infected. Others argue the infection must pass through other parts of body to get to brain, therefore these may be infected.

Ten years on, beef is back under suspicion

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE ten-year debate over BSE has been marked by confusion, contradiction, warnings against hysteria from meat producers and unwavering reassurance from the Government.

November 1986: BSE identified in cattle by Central Veterinary Laboratory. The condition was thought to have been transferred through consumption of sheep offal infected by scrapie.

April 1988: working party established under **Professor Sir Richard Southwood**, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, to assess significance of BSE epidemic.

June 1988: working group's first report recommended that infected animals and their milk be destroyed, BSE be made a notifiable disease, and a research committee be set up to discover extent of threat to animals and humans.

July 1988: Government banned feed products made from ground cattle and sheep remains.

August 1988: ministers ordered slaughter of all BSE-infected livestock.

November 1988: disease made notifiable.

February 1989: publication of Southwood report which said it was "most unlikely that BSE will have implications for human health". The EU banned export of cattle born before July 1988 and offspring of suspect animals.

May 1990: John Gummer, the Agriculture Minister, held press call at which his daughter, aged four, was photographed eating a beefburger. CJD surveillance unit set up in Edinburgh. First announcement of a cat with BSE.

May 1990: the Chief Medical Officer, **Sir Donald Acheson**, said beef was "absolutely safe to eat". **Margaret Thatcher** echoed him, saying: "You have got the best scientists working on it."

June 1990: 23 non-EU countries, including Saudi Arabia, banned British beef.

March 1993: Mark Duncan Templeman, a dairy farmer whose livestock had suffered from BSE, died of CJD.

August 1995: death of **Stephen Churchill**, 19, youngest British BSE victim, disclosed.

September 1995: a third dairy farmer confirmed as latest CJD fatality. Councils, including Humberside, banned meat from school canteens.

October 1995: Dr Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, said: "There is no scientific evidence of a link between meat-eating and CJD."

November 1995: Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, an expert on brain disease, said he would not eat beefburgers, beef liver or meat pies and recommended a ban on all meat offal.

December 1995: the professor accused by **Angela Browning**, junior Agriculture Minister, of not basing his conclusions on scientific evidence. The Advisory Body on Catering for Social Services urged a ban on beef products. **Graham Lane**, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "People are not prepared to accept government assurances at face value." **Douglas Hogg**, the Agriculture Minister, said he and his family still ate beef despite growing number of schools banning it.

John Major told Commons: "There is currently no scientific evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans or that eating beef causes it in humans. I am also advised that beef is a safe and wholesome product." Government published advertisements in newspapers saying: "BSE is an animal disease which affects only cattle."



John Gummer and daughter Cordelia enjoying beefburgers

Choose something else for Sunday lunch

If John Gummer had read *The Times* carefully when he was the Ariculture Minister he would never have persuaded his daughter to eat a beefburger.

The thought of eating meat that might be contaminated by one of a group of agents known as prions or slow viruses — about which doctors know very little other than that they are among the most dangerous agents studied by microbiologists — is enough to spoil any appetite.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the human equivalent of BSE, is so infectious that even the tiny piece of tissue used in a corneal graft has often transmitted it. The agent withstands even the temperature of an autoclave used to sterilise instruments.

A very similar disease to BSE and CJD, Kuru, wrought havoc among the hill tribes of New Guinea until cannibalism was eradicated 40 years ago.

We now know that BSE crosses the species barrier and now know, contrary to earlier reassurance given to us by experts, that it can be acquired by carnivores.

If cats can catch feline spongiform encephalopathy from eating infected beef products, are we wise to suggest that humans won't?

The incubation period in these diseases is up to 15 years. If children can be infected by a contaminated hamburger, those who caught it during the early 1980s when the number of cattle involved was small would only now start to become victims.

Previously when asked by patients whether they should eat beef, I have always suggested that they should do so only when it was obvious from which part of the animal it had been taken. I recommended against beef rissoles, cottage pie, beefburgers, beef extracts and even black pudding, sausages and beef pies. For the past two or three years I have extended this advice by suggesting that patients should avoid beef liver or kidneys or sweetbreads. Until today's report I have continued to enjoy roast beef although I have been careful to leave any lymphatic glands that might be lurking among the meat.

Although it seems likely that only a few people will be affected, I shall in future avoid all beef, whether roasted or minced, until scientists can be truly reassuring. Worthwhile reassurance must include a ministerial resolve not to use that most non-committal phrase "there is no evidence that"... Until I can tell my patients that "there is evidence that BSE cannot be transmitted to people" I will suggest they choose other joints for their Sunday lunch.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

HEAR CONSERVATIVE BRITAIN PRAISED BY THE OPPOSITION.

TONIGHT 9.00PM BBC1, 10.00PM ITV.

Methodists close to becoming extinct

The Methodist Church is losing 26 members a day and will soon cease to exist if the trend is not halted, its leaders said yesterday. In the past three years, the Methodist Church, Britain's third largest denomination after the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church, has lost more than 50,000 of its 1.2 million members. The Rev Peter Barber, membership secretary, said: "The Methodist Church is at a critical point in its life."

One reason given by the church is that 30,000 Methodists died during the three years covered by the figures. Another is the changes in society and in the use of Sunday, which for many is no longer a day of rest.

Royal Opera chairman

Peter Gummer, chairman of the Arts Council's National Lottery advisory panel, is to be the next chairman of the Royal Opera House board. He will also take over the chairmanship of the Royal Opera's development steering group, overseeing the controversial £200 million redevelopment. Mr Gummer, chairman of the public relations firm Shandwick, is resigning from all Arts Council involvement. He will succeed Sir Angus Stirling in July.

Behind bars at last

Darren Clancy, 24, who was jailed by York magistrates for four months for motoring offences, went home because no one from Group 4 arrived to take him to prison. The cases were being heard in a temporary court and there were no cells to hold him. Clancy gave himself up to police yesterday after waiting in vain to be collected from his home in the city. He was finally locked up in Group 4's privately run Wolds jail on Humberside.

Kew dispute settled

A pay dispute at Kew Gardens was settled yesterday. Specialist gardeners and botanical horticulturists held a day's strike on March 8 in protest at a deal which gave many a rise of 1 per cent and introduced performance-related pay. The new offer increases the lowest starting salary from £8,831 to £9,036. Performance-related pay remains but "outstanding performers" will receive up to 18.7 per cent rather than 16 per cent over the year.

No space for sugar deal



Steve Bennett, left, who wants to be the first amateur to put a rocket in space, has lost his sponsorship deal with Tate & Lyle. Last month Mr Bennett, 31, successfully test-fired his 21ft sugar-powered Starchaser 2 in Northumberland. Tate & Lyle said the parting was amicable. Mr Bennett, who is seeking £100,000 to take a rocket 50 miles up, said he was now free to try other fuels.

Parkinson's test hope

Tests on monkeys have given hope that a treatment for Parkinson's disease may be possible. The experiments, carried out in America and reported in *Nature*, show that in rhesus monkeys several of the symptoms of Parkinson's can be reversed by injecting into the animals' brains a protein that increases levels of the nerve messenger dopamine. Parkinson's is known to be caused by degeneration of the brain cells that make dopamine.

Dinosaur killer found

Researchers from the University of California in Los Angeles claim to have found fragments of the asteroid that annihilated the dinosaurs. In clay taken from the bed of the Pacific they discovered a tiny pebble that contains chromium, iron and iridium in the quantities found in meteorites. The pebble was found in a layer dating to 65 million years ago, when the dinosaurs disappeared.

Public complaints break record

Ombudsman attacks Whitehall job cuts

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

CIVIL SERVICE staff cuts were blamed yesterday by the parliamentary ombudsman for a record number of complaints against government departments. Maladministration is likely to increase because of government reforms, William Reid said.

"Reductions in staff numbers, organisational changes and new working practices will continue for some time to place individual civil servants under stress," he said. "There is a risk that fewer staff will lead to both slower service to the public and to more mistakes because civil servants will have less time for thought to enable them to pursue considered and prudent action."

Mr Reid's remarks in his annual report were the most critical in the 28 years since the ombudsman's office was established. There was a 28 per cent increase in complaints about maladministration last year.

Earlier this month the Government announced that it had reduced Civil Service numbers to less than 500,000 for the first time in more than 50 years. Mr Reid was unconvinced that improved efficiency had enabled the cuts. "I doubt whether automation and technology will compensate fully for cuts in human resources," he said.

Mr Reid was particularly critical of proposed staff cuts at the Department of Social Security. The DSS and its agencies account for almost half of all complaints to the ombudsman. Mr Reid said: "I can do the arithmetic: the existing job is not wholly efficient and if there are 25 per cent fewer doing it, you can draw the conclusions."

Privatisation and contracting out threatened accountability and limited the chances of consumers being compensated for mistakes. "The implications of such transfers of responsibility need to be assessed to ensure that a proper and independent mechanism for looking into and providing redress for justified complaints remains in place."

Mr Reid denied that his attack was political. "All I have done is simply draw attention to the effects of policies." A total of 1,706 complaints were forwarded by MPs to the ombudsman last year. Of the 245 complaints he studied, Mr Reid found 236 to be justified. He said that 76 cases led to changes in departmental procedures and in 108 cases his intervention led to financial compensation.

Almost half of the 834 complaints against the DSS concerned the Child Support Agency. There were 160 complaints about the Inland Revenue, a 19 per cent rise even though cases can now be taken to a revenue adjudicator.

Mr Reid also investigates complaints about official secrecy. He blamed a lack of public awareness of the code on open government for the fact that there were only 44 inquiries, but said they were "all very profitable".

The ombudsman said that his greatest victory had been forcing the Department of Transport to consider compensation for householders whose property had been blighted by the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Factions battle to the death for INLA supremacy

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



Dominic McGlinchey, left, and Gino Gallagher, two INLA leaders who came to a violent end

LEADING members of the Irish National Liberation Army in Belfast have gone to ground as the terrorist organisation tears itself apart in a feud that has claimed three lives this year.

Two factions fighting for control appear determined to stop at nothing to wipe out their opponents. One, known as the Belfast Brigade, is said to be unrepentant after shooting dead Barbara McAlorum, nine, as she played in her living room in North Belfast on Friday night. The gunmen were believed to be supporters of Gino Gallagher, the former INLA chief of staff, whose murder by INLA opponents in January sparked the latest feud.

Gallagher's supporters hit back after his murder when they killed John Fennell, 40, a founding member of the INLA, at a caravan park in Bundoran, Co Donegal, earlier this month. During a bloody interrogation, Fennell "confessed" to delivering money to the gunman who murdered Gallagher. Fennell was then beaten to death with a concrete block.

The anti-Gallagher faction, which calls itself the GHQ Staff of the INLA, struck on Tuesday when a gunmen opened fire on group of men in West Belfast. One man, who was believed to have been a pallbearer at Gallagher's funeral, was recovering in hospital yesterday from gunshot wounds in the leg.

In a statement to a Belfast newspaper, the GHQ faction said the shooting was an attack on "the remnants of the Gallagher gang". The statement added: "The GHQ reiterates its call for the gang to disband forthwith or face the consequences."

The INLA has been riven by dissent during its 20-year history. In the bloodiest feud in the latter part of 1986 and early 1987, 12 members of the organisation were killed. Dominic McGlinchey, a former INLA leader, was shot dead in 1994, although his killing was believed to have been ordered by the IRA.

The INLA and its political wing, the Irish Republican Socialist Party, claim to be revolutionary socialists. However, the INLA is more famous for launching some of the most horrific terrorist atrocities during the Troubles. The organisation was held responsible for the assassination of Airey Neave at Westminster in March 1979, and in 1982 killed 17 people in a bomb attack on the Droppin' Well pub at Ballykelly, Co Londonderry.

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British man murdered in China's Wild West

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND BILL FROST

A BRITISH businessman has been murdered in Shenzhen, the increasingly lawless and violent Chinese city on the border with Hong Kong.

David Swindells suffered fatal stab wounds during the attack, which is thought to have been carried out by thieves. They are believed to have forced their way into his room at the five-star Shangri-La Hotel shortly after he arrived with a colleague.

Last night his wife said she had often feared that she would never see him again when he embarked on his frequent business trips abroad. "He travelled a lot and I had prepared myself for the fact that one day he might not come back," Joan Swindells said.

"This really hasn't sunk in yet. I am still numbed by what has happened but I had this feeling that there might be a time when I would not see him again: that is the sort of dangerous world we live in," she said.

Mr Swindells, 59, was working in Shenzhen as a business consultant for Corning Incorporated, a New York-based computer company. Colleagues described him yesterday as "a well-liked and well-repected high achiever".

Kyu Sung, a workmate who travelled with Mr Swindells to China earlier this month, said he had been out sightseeing when his friend was murdered last Sunday. "As I returned to the hotel, I intended to call David, who was on another floor, to invite him to join me for dinner. But then I saw that the lobby was swarming with police and was shocked when they told me that he had been stabbed to death."

The murder comes just days after the British Embassy in Peking issued a warning to travellers of the increased dangers they face in China. "Muggings in main cities, sexual harassment and crime on trains are increasing. Foreigners are regular targets," a spokesman said.

Jamie Houghton, chairman of Corning Incorporated, last night paid tribute to Mr Swindells, who lived at Frilford, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. "He was very highly regarded within the company. Obviously all David's colleagues are very saddened by this most unfortunate incident," he said. "This is particularly difficult for me because I worked with David for many years. Our prayers are with his widow and three children."



Mrs Swindells described her husband as "an exceptional man". She added: "David was a lovely and highly intelligent man. He had great integrity, a wonderfully infectious sense of humour and was very erudite and extremely well-read."

Mr Swindells, a politics graduate from New College, Oxford, retired as a full-time employee of Corning Incorporated two years ago. He had been with the company 24 years, rising to vice-president before becoming a freelance consultant.

Last night the businessman's family was waiting for news of when his body might be returned to Britain. A Foreign Office spokesman said that Chinese police might want a post-mortem examination before authorising the release of the body.

Shenzhen, a poor rural village only two decades ago, has become a "Wild West" boom town after being chosen by the Chinese Government as a testbed for economic reform and a flirtation with capitalism.

Exposure to new freedom has, however, brought near anarchy to the city. Guests fled from one state-run hotel after witnessing rival Triad gangs fighting with knives and meat cleavers in the lobby.

Foreign businessmen are preyed on by prostitutes and muggers who seem to operate with impunity in hotels and see visiting businessmen and women as a ready source of foreign currency.

Anxious at the rising tide of crime in the city, the authorities have recently sought to make an example of those responsible. However, not even posters showing the execution of criminals by firing squad has halted the growth of lawlessness.

City bank turns to Yorkshire for touch of Zen

BY JOE JOSEPH

A FORMER foundry worker from Yorkshire who has turned himself into an unlikely tub-thumper for Zen Buddhism and Taoist philosophy has convinced City financiers that they, too, can benefit from his motivation.

Standard Chartered, the British-based bank with operations in Asia and Africa, has just hired Sid Joynson of Castleford, West Yorkshire, to instil team-minded Japanese spirit of *kaizen*, or continuous improvement, into 90 backroom clerical staff in its London office.

Mr Joynson, 54, whose clients include Hotpoint, Barclaycard, Powergen and British Aerospace, became a convert to Japanese factory methods after visiting Tokyo eight years ago.

"I teach people how the Japanese *really* run their factories," he said yesterday while running a two-day, £2,400 workshop for a paintbrush firm in Belfast.

"It's a brutal and direct approach to life, but it's also supportive and caring. I get people wound up and enthusiastic, but also give them some very specific tools and techniques."

The novelty is not just that the one-man-band Mr Joynson is a far cry from accountants and management consultants, but that his notion of teamwork is traditionally alien to the City, where a Darwinian struggle in the dealing room secures the fattest salary and the sleekest company cars.

Standard Chartered said it was beginning to use "team-builders" throughout its organisation. Chris Sykes, the bank's operations manager, believes Mr Joynson might be the man "to improve our operations by moving to a greater degree of team spirit and empowerment". He also says that Mr Joynson "is not for the faint-hearted", being a man who likes referring to the CBI as "Complete Bloody Idiots" and winces at companies' "Mickey Mouse" rules that belittle people. He urges managers to smile more, praise more and perform acts of random kindness.

"Respect, treating people as experts, whether they are the toilet cleaner or the managing director, that's the key. All I do for a living is go into an organisation and tap into the wisdom that's already there. A good general puts his troops first; a bad general puts himself first, and loses the battle."

Mr Joynson says that too many managers show their staff not TLC (tender loving care) but TDC — thinly disguised contempt. He argues that bosses and management consultants who think they can improve profits by shedding staff not only ruin their companies but have been responsible for killing off British manufacturing industry.

"Everywhere I go I've got heroes waiting for me. But I'm the first person who's told them they're heroes."

Word of mouth has filled Mr Joynson's diary and his wallet: "I make a fortune. I can do free workshops with Dr Barnardo's because I'm rich."

Leading article, page 21

DAVID MUSCROFT



Sid Joynson is a far cry from the usual consultant. Respect for every worker is the key, he says

Swindling bigamist Casanova jailed for 4½ years

AN AGEING and overweight Casanova who swindled the women he seduced was jailed for 4½ years yesterday.

Nicholas Leonardo, 56, a multimillionaire bigamist, was still married to his fourth wife, was having an affair with his secretary, and was engaged to a deputy bank manager he had led into a life of crime when he was arrested in 1994.

The court was told that the offences Leonardo had admitted involved £2 million. However, police are convinced he dishonestly obtained about £3.5 million in Britain alone. The court was told it was not possible to prove his true identity.

Knightsbridge Crown Court in central London was told how Leonardo, who once ran off with a £250,000 jewellery collection after telling a Swiss dealer he was engaged to Christina Onassis, carefully selected his victims. Often armed with information uncovered by private investigators he had hired, the accomplished linguist would charm them with proclamations of love and tales of his wealth. One of his victims, Maria Seymour, a Mexican-born divorcee, handed over her savings after he told her that he had served in the Cabinet of King Constantine of Greece.

Patricia Flynn, the woman bank official, was persuaded into defrauding the Midland Bank of £133,000. When her employers became suspicious, Leonardo effectively imprisoned Miss Flynn, taking her to Spain, America and Greece to prevent her talking. She was eventually arrested and jailed for three years.

The court was told that Leonardo would invent excuses when his victims questioned his behaviour. He once claimed that he had been blown up by an IRA bomb.

Greek-born Leonardo also defrauded financial institutions — in one case obtaining a mortgage advance of £790,000.

Passing sentence, Judge Hordern told Leonardo, who admitted 11 sample counts of theft and deception between 1987 and 1993, that his betrayal of Mrs Seymour's trust was "extremely serious", and the way he had swindled his secretary, Jayshree Keval, showed "extreme meanness". He said she should receive £6,000 compensation while Mrs Seymour should receive the remainder of the £50,000 confiscation order.

The judge added: "It is quite clear that your presence in this country is a detriment to it and I recommend you should be deported after you have served your sentence."

Photographer threatened former model

A PHOTOGRAPHER who pestered a former Page Three model with menacing phone calls when she refused to continue posing for him was jailed for three months yesterday.

Kenneth Bartels bombarded Jane Stoner, 34, who appeared on the cover of Jilly Cooper's bestseller *Riders*, with more than 800 phone calls and messages on her answering machine, telling her he would wreck her life.

Magistrates at Brighton were told that Bartels, 56, of Crawley, West Sussex, became obsessed with Mrs Stoner after she stopped working for him. He admitted making menacing phone calls.

Skiing crash kills Pears biographer

BY BILL FROST

THE biographer of Peter Pears has been killed in a skiing accident in the French Alps. Christopher Headington, who was also a composer and teacher, crashed headlong into a tree while out with a class at the resort of Les Houches in the Chamonix valley.

A police spokesman said of the accident, which happened on Tuesday: "It was really bad luck. He could have broken an arm or a leg, but unfortunately his head took the full impact."

In his 1992 biography of Pears, Headington, 65, who lived in Newton Abbot, Devon, charted the singer's love affair with Benjamin Britten.

The biography, however, met with mixed reviews. Max Loppert, writing in the *Financial Times*, said the book was "a dogged disappointment". He concluded that Headington, who knew Pears and Britten well, had sought to avoid controversy.

No mean composer himself, Headington's works included a ballet, performed in Paris and Edinburgh in 1957, choral music, two string quartets, two piano sonatas, a piano quartet, a cello sonata and three song cycles. He taught music in schools until 1964, when he joined the BBC as a senior assistant in music presentation. The following year he was appointed tutor in music at the Oxford University Delegacy for Extramural Studies.

He appeared frequently on television and radio music programmes and published a *History of Western Music* in 1974.

His later musical compositions drew much praise. They were described by one critic as "bold in construction, free and more positive in declaring themselves emotionally".

Mutinous talk stirs tempers at Bligh auction

BY TIM JONES

MORE than 200 years after the infamous mutiny, the descendants of Captain William Bligh, master of the ill-fated *HMS Bounty*, and Fletcher Christian are still at war.

Yesterday, as a treasure trove of memorabilia charting the voyage and its consequences fetched £130,000 at auction, they remained divided over whether the great navigator was a tyrant or a maligned national hero.

Maurice Bligh was in no doubt that his great, great, great-grandfather had been slighted through the decades and unfairly turned into an historical ogre. Mr Bligh, an author, has spent more than 25 years trying to clear the captain's name and hopes soon to publish a book which he says, will accurately depict him in a kindly light.

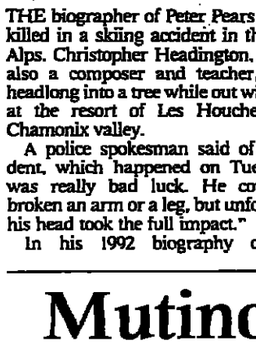
He said: "He has been portrayed in a totally unfair way and is unrecognisable from the man he really was. Instead of being regarded as a tyrant, he should be fêted as a national hero." Mr Bligh, 52, was scathing about Stephen Walters, whose collection was being sold at the auction at Bonhams. He said: "I have a few bones to pick with him. He was adviser to the 1984 film *The Bounty* which starred Anthony Hopkins and was based on the worst anti-Bligh novel ever written."

Mr Walters, an historical adviser, paid tribute to Bligh's skills as a navigator and husbander of men. "I don't think he was as bad as is sometimes painted but he did not suffer fools gladly and railed against people who did not follow his commands."

Ewan Christian, a distant cousin of Fletcher Christian, who led the mutiny and sailed the *Bounty* to Pitcairn Island, refused to accept that Captain Bligh was not a harsh and cruel man. He said: "There were two mutinies against him, one on sea, the other on land so clearly there was something wrong with the man. I do not see him as a hero and back Fletcher in his actions."

Although the three men attended the auction in Knightsbridge, after the collection was sold they stood well apart and did not speak to one another.

The most valuable work to be auctioned, *An Account of the Mutinous Seizure of the Bounty*, derived from Bligh's own account of the mutiny, fetched £10,925. An album relating to Peter Heywood, at 15, the youngest mutineer, made £7,475.



Bligh: defended by his relative yesterday

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Teachers to be graded after only two lessons

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POOR performance in two lessons will be enough to classify teachers as incompetent under new inspection guidelines to help to rid schools of 15,000 bad staff.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday that all teachers would be graded on a seven-point scale from next month and the best and worst will be identified in confidential reports to heads. He said an inspector's judgment alone should not be used to oust a poor teacher but the new grades would provide "valuable management information" which head teachers would be expected to act upon.

Mr Woodhead added that if he were a head teacher, he would offer the incompetent teacher support and training, monitor them for six to nine months, and then make a decision about their future. Mr Woodhead said last November there were 15,000 incompetent teachers who should be sacked.

Heads said they would welcome the reports, which will be on teachers graded one or two, for outstanding or excellent, and six or seven, for poor or very poor. Teaching unions said the gradings would create a hostile reaction towards inspectors. Ofsted, the school inspection agency, said that under the guidelines, a teacher would receive a grade six or seven if inspectors judged their lessons to be badly planned, chaotic or ill-disciplined, with children unsure why they were being asked to do things and signs that the teacher did not have a full grasp of the subject. Their grade would drop if the children's expectations were too low, if they used inappropriate teaching materials and delivered monotonous lessons.

Teachers identified as incompetent will also be shown their report and allowed to state "any exceptional personal reasons that, in their view, would explain the quality of their teaching".

Many secondary and more than half of primary schools have yet to be inspected but Mr Woodhead said reports so far suggested there were 48,000 teachers who would be graded one or two and 15,000 teachers at level six or seven.

Inspectors observe the performance of all teachers delivering national curriculum subjects while assessing a school. At least two lessons would have to be excellent or poor to warrant a personal report to the head.

Mr Woodhead said: "We are not saying this evidence is enough for anyone to be dismissed. It is our contribution to what should be ongoing monitoring in the school, so no one need fear inspectors arriving on the scene."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the reports would provide important data "which can be acted on as the head thinks fit. All heads will deal with this information in a thoroughly professional manner. The fears of teachers' organisations whose members' teaching may be judged particularly poor are exaggerated."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "If this is not going to be used by the head for disciplinary purposes, why is Mr Woodhead doing it?"

Letters, page 21

How three apples may go into four pupils

CHILDREN are likely to be given three quarters of an apple or orange instead of the whole fruit as Derbyshire council tries to save £12 million on its schools' budget.

Dave Wilcox, the Labour education chairman, described the proposed fruit cuts for 43,000 primary school children as "sadly necessary". The cuts, which would save £60,000, are due to be discussed by councillors on the catering sub-committee tomorrow. Other measures are also being considered, including increasing the cost of school meals. Alan Lewis, the sub-committee chairman, said: "We are not cutting fruit as an option, merely reducing the amount available. We are still providing a balanced diet for children."

A spokesman for Derbyshire County Council said children would still be allowed to ask for second helpings.



DAVID CHESKIN

Peter Bessant welcomes back a wild boar to the New Forest, not seen since his great-grandfather shot the last in 1905

Great-grandson of boar killer hails the beast's return

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WILD boars have returned to the New Forest after an absence of 90 years. Yesterday the great-grandson of Charlie Bessant, a gamekeeper who shot the forest's last wild boar in 1905, led 13 of the animals into an eight-acre sanctuary.

Peter Bessant, a Forestry Commission worker, said wild boars had once been considered a pest by farmers. "Old Charlie was just doing his job and probably didn't derive much satisfaction from the deed," he said. "If he knew his great-grandson would one day greet the boar's return, I'm sure he would have approved."

The boars, three males, four females and six young, will live on a wildlife cum holiday centre which officially opens at Easter. The 45-acre Nature Quest centre, which is based at Longdown, Hampshire, holds many native species and some alien invaders.

Mark Oakley, of the centre, said: "We have got the last five coypu from Chester Zoo. They decided they were not exotic enough." The coypu, a South American rodent imported into Britain early this century for fur, caused havoc to river banks on the Norfolk Broads before being eradicated. The centre also has England's only colony of black rats and the first stoats born in captivity.

The boars, from German stock, are being kept in eight acres where it is hoped they will be self-sufficient, living off acorns and bulbs.

Mr Oakley said: "They are pretty big animals — the largest male weighs 100 kilos and the sows can get quite aggressive if they feel their young are threatened. Given the number of tourists wandering around the New Forest, having wild boar roaming [illegible] will would represent quite a danger."

The introduction of boars marks a further step in the rehabilitation of the beast. Nigel Dauncey, who runs Barrow Boars near Yeovil, Somerset, said there were now about 400 head of breeding stock in Britain.

Fifteen years ago there were virtually no wild boars being farmed and only a handful in zoos. Mr Dauncey, whose farm supplies boar meat to Harrods, said the last indigenous wild boar was killed in Staffordshire in 1593. The beast shot 90 years ago by Mr Bessant was the last of a failed 1850 reintroduction from Germany.

Cambridge cashes in on Oxford confusion

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CAMBRIDGE University has benefited from last year's uncertainty over the abolition of Oxford's entrance examination by recording the only increase in applications at any British university.

Higher education applications have fallen this year for the first time in more than a decade. However, Cambridge has bucked the trend, with 4 per cent more applicants than last year. It rejected 3,000 students with three grade As.

Cambridge admissions tutors admitted yesterday at a conference of 500 secondary school teachers that confusion over Oxford's entrance procedures appeared to be partly responsible for the increase. Although the examination was retained for this year's candidates, the more settled picture at Cambridge may have encouraged waverers to choose that university.

Susan Stobbs, who chairs Cambridge's admissions forum, said: "We have benefited from coming top of a number of league tables, and a lot of hard work has been put into encouraging more state school pupils to apply. But the Oxford examination obviously was also a factor."

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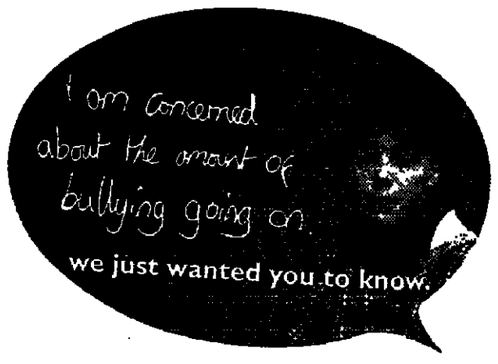
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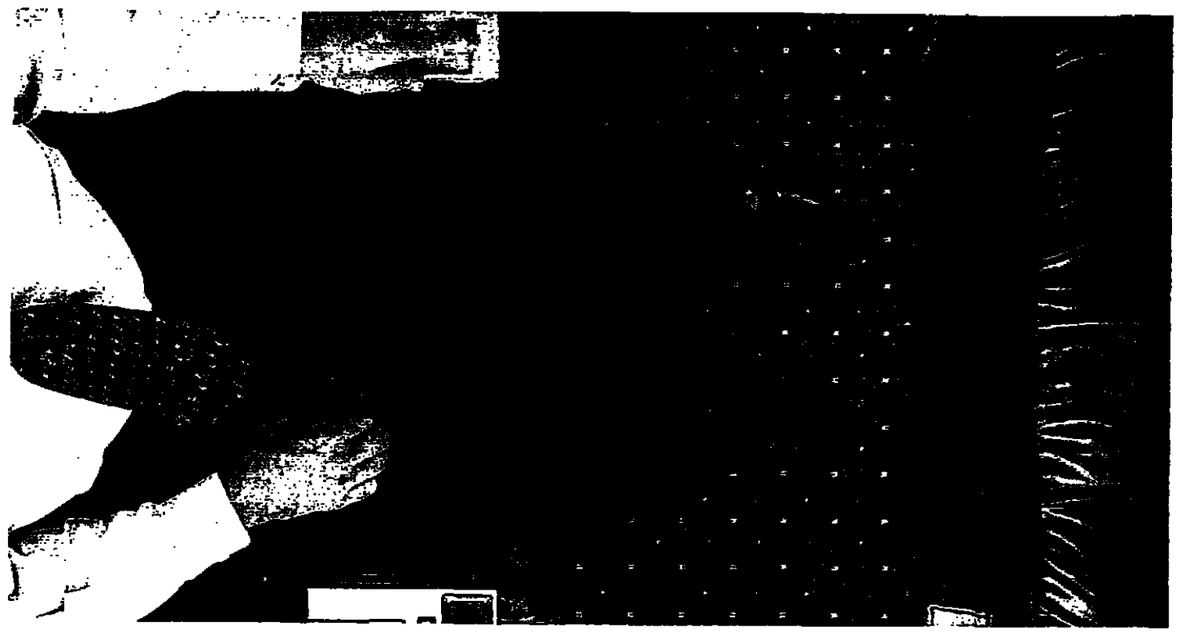
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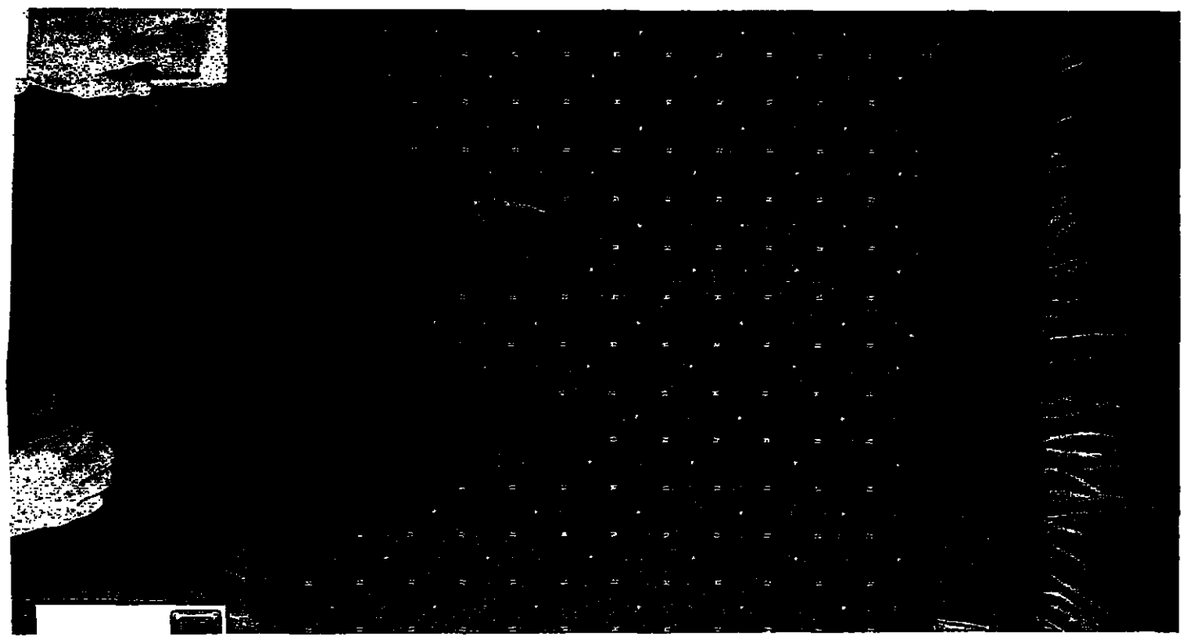
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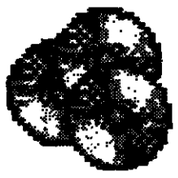
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Tory schools policy a vote-loser, says Blair

Major condemned for 'harking back to 11-plus system'

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR rejected a return to the 11-plus system yesterday as John Major called for greater selection in thousands of schools.

The Labour leader argued that the Government's approach, effectively a return to the 11-plus, was not a vote-winner. He said that on education the Prime Minister was moving the Tories out of the centre ground and wanted to switch the clock back.

"It would be a mistake for this country to go back to the 11-plus, where you divided children into successes and failures and eighty per cent of them ended up classified as failures," Mr Blair said.

Later Mr Major heralded plans to extend selection from grant-maintained schools to church schools, local authority comprehensives and specialist schools. "In our schools and colleges I want the gates thrown open and ladders let down. Good education should be for the many, not just the few," he said.

"I never had the chance to go to university, and neither did many of my generation. I'm proud that today's young people aren't shut out of these opportunities."

In a speech to the Social Market Foundation, Mr Major again attacked Harriet Harman's decision to send her child to a grammar school in defiance of party policy.

"Labour wouldn't give those parents, who face the appalling prospect of sending their children to failing schools run by Labour councils, the choice of schools in other areas — unless, of course, they sit in the Shadow Cabinet," he said.

"They wouldn't give bright children from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to go to private schools — denying them the education some Labour politicians enjoyed."

Mr Major said that he planned more announcements in the next few weeks and claimed that education was the first vital step on the road to providing choice and freedom. "I want children to get above themselves. I want our youngsters to follow their own skills and ambitions, and not be confined by artificial barriers and outdated social conventions."

Mr Blair also highlighted the differences between the two parties over the Assisted Places Scheme. At last year's Tory party conference Mr Major promised to double the number of assisted places at independent schools. Labour is pledged to phasing out the scheme and using the money saved to reduce class sizes.

"It's extraordinary that the Prime Minister's only real new idea is greater subsidy through the Assisted Places Scheme for private education," Mr Blair said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*. "The Labour party is prepared to say we are the party that will modernise the comprehensive system and give people real diversity and choice within it."

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said that Mr Blair was fundamentally wrong. The Government had raised standards, widened opportunity, choice and diversity and was "now beginning to understand that successful policy is part of an election-winning strategy".

Mr Blair was asked whether Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, might lose her seat on the Shadow Cabinet and the National Executive Committee as a result of the controversy over her grammar school decision, and whether she should simply resign now.

Mr Blair defended Ms Harman but offered no guarantee about her future. "Let's see what happens," he said. "I don't believe she should step down from either.

"I believe that people who have seen Harriet perform and knock lumps off Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell and government ministers on the health service are very, very supportive of her."

☐ Yesterday the Parliamentary Labour Party decided that an internal review committee would discuss whether the Shadow Cabinet election should be brought forward from October to July, or be dropped. The committee, which Doug Hoyle, chairman of the PLP, John Prescott, deputy party leader, and Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, will meet on Tuesday and report after Easter.



Think-tank urges tax breaks on old age insurance

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE over-50s should be given tax breaks to encourage them to insure against the costs of long-term residential or nursing care, a leading Tory think-tank proposes today.

Tax allowances of £180 a year for men and £250 for women are proposed as ministers prepare to announce their own ideas for dealing with one of the hottest items in the Government's in-tray.

Ministers are under pressure from middle-class voters alarmed to discover that John Major's objective of "wealth cascading down the generations" is jeopardised by the rising costs of long-term care.

Growing numbers of elderly people are being forced to sell their homes to meet fees for residential or nursing care because the present means tests for state help are so strict. But those who make no provision for their old age are looked after free of charge.

One estimate suggests that the bill could reach £30 billion — four times the present level — in 35 years, placing a big new burden on the next generation of taxpayers.

The new paper, published by Politeia and widely circulated in Whitehall, supports tax breaks as the best way to encourage people to provide for their old age and to spare the taxpayer. The author, Philip Booth, a senior lecturer in actuarial science at City University, says that the best answer is to give a special tax allowance to people in the 50-65 age bracket taking out insurance. The allowance would be pitched to cover all or part of their care, rather than accommodation, costs.

"The finance of long-term care for the elderly is a problem which needs tackling," he writes. "The present system is widely perceived to be unfair, and the Government is seen as confiscating the hard-earned savings and valued assets of the thrifty . . .

"Although government would continue to provide free care for those who pass the means test, the uncertainty of most people as to whether in 20 or 30 years' time, they would pass or fail such a test would ensure a high take-up of even a partial allowance."

A government Green Paper to be published around Easter will propose another formula, so-called partnership schemes under which people insure themselves for a pre-set level of fees and, if the money runs out, turn to the State for help.

Mr Booth says that formula would appear to redistribute funds towards people who would have paid their own way. It could also prove more expensive than his scheme.

☐ *The long-term view: financing care for the elderly* (Politeia, 28 Charing Cross Rd, London WC2H 0DH; £5)

Lower tax central to Tory campaign

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR promised lower taxes, tight control of public spending, and a recovery in the housing market yesterday as he rallied his party for the battle to come with Labour.

The Prime Minister outlined his campaign plans after the Cabinet spent nearly an hour in political session preparing for a conference next week on winning a fifth term.

The theme of the Central Council meeting in Harrogate, to be attended by the party's most senior activists, will be the Government's plans to take Britain into the next century. Speakers, who will include Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, and the Mr Major, have been asked to hint at new policies to come.

In a speech to the Social Market Foundation at Westminster, Mr Major said that while the Tories were the party of opportunity, Labour was the party of opportunism. "I want people to get on. I want them to believe that, if they have the talent and the application, there's nothing they can't achieve."

That meant giving people the freedom and encouragement to take responsibility for their own lives. He wanted to give people more chances to choose schools for their children, to move off benefits into work, to own shares and property and to keep more of the money they earned.

"We're now back on our tax-cutting agenda giving people the opportunity to spend or save more of what they earn. We want to cut taxes further and that means controlling public spending . . .

"Combine rising earnings, today's level of house prices, low inflation and low mortgages, and you have one of the most favourable times ever to buy a house. It provides the right conditions for a sustainable recovery."

MPs have much to learn from Nolan and Scott

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Parliament is not working well. That is not only the view of the public in polls and of many wiser MPs in private, but also of two eminent judges — Lord Nolan and Sir Richard Scott — who have spent a good deal of time studying the workings of the political system. Neither exactly endeared himself to many MPs, particularly Tories. But their reflections on the failings of Parliament, in speeches over the past week, are telling.

The real issue is not sleaze or personal scandal, but ineffectiveness. Lord Nolan is a friendly, even supportive, critic, who believes that the decline in public confidence in the standards of conduct of MPs is not justified by the evidence and that we have sound institutions of which we should be proud.

Much has been made of the decision of many, mainly Tory, MPs to stand down at the next election and the Nolan proposals have often been blamed. But even in the form adopted by the Commons these only affect a narrow area of paid outside interests. Lord Nolan's impression is that the disenchantment of MPs reflects a combination of the difficulites faced by the Commons in supervising the executive, the delay in examining the salaries and expenses of MPs, and the intrusion into private life which public life now entails. All are valid. The Government made a mistake in not ensuring that MPs' pay was reviewed at the same time as the new controls on outside earnings were introduced.

But the basic cause of MPs' disillusionment is their loss of influence, let alone power, particularly when compared with the American Congress. Referring to the inquiry's current work, Lord Nolan pointed to "a great increase in the number and diversity of bodies of all sizes and types which are delivering public services and whose lines of accountability run upwards through ministers — and sometimes as in the case of regulators not through ministers — to Parliament. Yet Parliament is inadequately resourced for bringing all those bodies to account. Indeed in many cases I doubt whether it is possible or practicable for Parliament to bring local quangos to account." Moreover, despite a genuine commitment to greater openness, there remains a "continuing cult of secrecy" which persists in parts of Whitehall, as is still shown in parliamentary answers. Consequently, he argues that MPs "would obtain much greater job satisfaction if they were able to find ways of more effectively bringing the government machine to account".

This general charge was reinforced this week by Sir Richard Scott. He argued that the continuation of export control orders introduced as a wartime emergency in 1939 — which were at the heart of his report — "is a story not only of an abuse of executive power but also of a failure by Parliament". The abuse of executive power by both Conservative and Labour administrations and the failure of Parliament to act "gave substance to the charge that the constitution has become an elective dictatorship".

The root problem uncovered by both Nolan and Scott is the inadequate performance of the Commons and the frustrations of MPs. The primary function of the Commons at present is as a recruitment agency for the executive and its shadow. One result is to undermine the other roles of the Commons in scrutinising the executive. As William Waldegrave pointed out in a speech to the Social Market Foundation on Tuesday, "both Houses now very often mesh with pressure groups to force up [public] spending and thereby to increase the power of the executive. The old Parliamentary tradition, of suspicion of the executive and its desire to spending, is in danger of withering".

Sir Richard might smile at the source of this advice. But Parliament, as well as the Government, has much to learn from the Nolan and Scott inquiries.

PETER RIDDELL

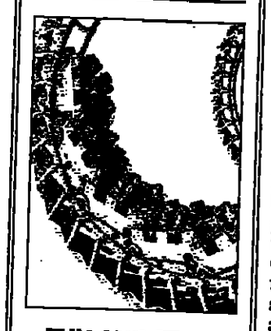
IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY In the Commons: backbench debates; education and employment questions; two statements on beef issues; Reserve Forces Bill, second reading; City of Westminster Bill, revival motion. In the Lords: effect of government economic strategy on British people's wellbeing; Restaurants (Service and Cover Charges) Bill, committee.
TODAY In the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on the European Intergovernmental conference; backbench debate on lottery beneficiaries in west Suffolk. In the Lords: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading; Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, report.





SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



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Law reformers demand tougher controls on rented property

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

LANDLORDS should be forced by law to keep rented properties fit for human habitation, according to the Law Commission. It says that more than a fifth of private rented accommodation in England, and more than a quarter in Wales, is not fit to live in.

In a report on the relationship between landlord and tenant the commission, the Government's law reform body, points out that at present the law is powerless to force landlords to keep their properties in a habitable state. Many people rented properties on the understanding that the landlord would carry out repairs, but the obligation was limited to making good physical deterioration.

"This means that a property can be unfit for human habitation even though it is not in disrepair — a common case is where the unfitness is caused by condensation," the Commission says.

If a house in London is unfit for human habitation, the tenant can sue the landlord only if the annual rent is less than £80; outside London the figure is £52. These rent limits have remained almost unchanged since 1957.

If the lease of business premises does not provide for their repair, the law presumes that no one was intended to be responsible, which can make it impossible for either landlord or tenant to force the other to halt the deterioration of the property.

The commission says that, even where there are remedies, they are limited. If one party is under an obligation to repair the premises, the other may not always be able to compel him or her to do so and may have to be content with a claim for damages. Similarly, courts have a statutory power to compel specific repair covenants to be complied with but that power is limited to a landlord's covenants to repair dwellings. Tenants are under a duty to behave in a tenant-like manner and not to commit waste, but it is often unclear what that means.

The report recommends reforms to tackle the problems and simplify the law. It proposes a new code of obligations that would require landlords to repair and maintain leasehold property. Subject to limited exceptions, it would be a condition of every residential lease granted for less than seven years that the landlord should keep the premises fit for human habitation. In other cases, the parties would agree their own terms.

Unless the parties agreed otherwise or there was a specific statute to the contrary, the landlord would be responsible for keeping the let premises in repair and it would no longer be possible for both landlord and tenant to escape responsibility.

The courts would be able to require compliance with any repairing covenant, whether by landlord or tenant, if it thought that was the appropriate remedy.

Unless the parties agreed otherwise, all tenants and licensees would be under an obligation to take proper care of the premises. The "archaic" law of waste and the uncertain duty to be "tenant-like" should be abolished.

Charles Harpum, Law Commissioner, said that the proposals would simplify and modernise the law and help to improve rented property.

"The right to residential housing that is fit for human habitation meets an obvious social need that is as presing now as it has always been," he said. The right had been given by Parliament more than a century ago and it benefited a majority of residential tenants until the rent limits made it meaningless in the 1960s.

☐ *Landlord and Tenant: Responsibility for State and Condition of Property (Law Com No 238)*. Stationery Office: £20.40

TENANTS LEFT WITH NOWHERE TO TURN

THE Law Commission highlights the case of an unemployed man whose furnishings were ruined by condensation caused by a design defect in his council house at Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. The council could not be ordered to remedy the defect and was not liable for the tenant's losses although it was under an implied statutory obligation to repair the structure and exterior of the house. The design defect did not constitute a "disrepair" in law, for which the landlord would have been responsible.

An infestation of cockroaches damaged carpets and furniture at a flat in Nunhead, southeast London, and forced the tenant to throw away a great deal of food. The infestation was eradicated after five years when the local authority required the landlord to take action. In proceedings brought by the tenant, however, a court held that she had no remedy against her landlord for her inconvenience and loss. If there had been grounds for her claim, the damages might have been some £10,000, the commission says.

If either case had arisen 40 years ago, the tenant would have had at least a claim in damages for his loss, the commission says. But because the remedy is tied to a rent maximum that has not changed since the 1950s, it is virtually useless.



JULIAN HERBERT

Bruce Grobbelaar arriving at court yesterday

Footballers hear charges that they fixed matches

By Michael Horsnell

ALLEGATIONS of match-fixing involving corrupt payments of more than £60,000 were outlined by the Crown against three Premiership footballers yesterday.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton goalkeeper; Hans Segers, the Wimbledon keeper; and John Fashanu, the former England and Aston Villa striker, appeared in court charged with conspiring with Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman, improperly to influence the outcome of games.

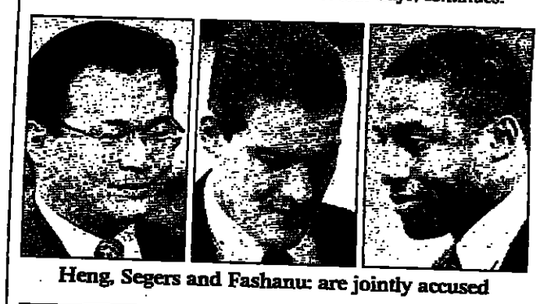
The hearing at Eastleigh Magistrates' Court will decide whether they should be committed to the Crown Court for trial. The four men arrived separately and spoke only to confirm their identities and to say that they understood the charges. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

All four men are charged with conspiring together between February 1, 1991, and March 15, 1995 — together with others known and unknown — "corruptly to give and corruptly to accept gifts of money as inducements to influence the outcome of football matches or as rewards for having done so". Grobbelaar, 38, the former Liverpool goalkeeper, is also accused of corruptly accepting £40,000 from Fashanu on November 25, 1993, while still playing for Liverpool, for having influenced the outcome of a match between Newcastle United and Liverpool four days earlier.

The Zimbabwean international goalkeeper is also charged with corruptly accepting £2,000 from Christopher Vincent, his former business partner, as an inducement or reward for improperly influencing the outcome of a football match or matches on November 3, 1994.

Fashanu, 32, the host of the ITV programme *Gladiators*, is accused of corruptly giving Grobbelaar £40,000. He is similarly accused of giving Segers £19,000 as a reward for having improperly influenced the result of the Wimbledon v. Liverpool match on October 22, 1994. Segers, 34, is accused of corruptly accepting £19,000 from Fashanu.

All four men were granted conditional bail. The hearing, which is expected to last at least four days, continues.



Heng, Segers and Fashanu: are jointly accused

Mistakes in jobless benefit near £100m

By Dominic Kennedy

MISTAKES in unemployment benefit now cost the taxpayer more than fraudulent claims, the National Audit Office reports today. Errors totalled £97 million in 1994-95, more than double the previous year, compared with an estimated £86 million in dishonest claims.

The Audit Office found that 3.8 per cent of the unemployment benefit awards it examined in 1994-95 were wrong. It estimated that £72 million was overpaid while £25 million was underpaid. That accounted for 7.5 per cent of the £1.3 billion budget, almost double the previous year's figure of 3.9 per cent and higher than in all but two of the past seven years.

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said the true figure for errors could be up to £121 million because the figures were only estimates based on samples.

Three quarters of the mistakes were the fault of the Employment Service and a quarter were due to incorrect information provided by the unemployed.

The main cause of the increase in errors last year was a failure by staff to check whether claimants had exhausted their entitlement to unemployment benefit. Other errors included payments to people who were unavailable for work or had failed to make enough National Insurance contributions.

Cambridge students take dim view of cuts

By Adrian Lee

A PROPOSAL to switch off one in eight street lights to save money in Cambridge has angered students who fear they will be more vulnerable to late-night attacks. The measure comes at time when police are fighting to control a surge in street crime.

Cambridgeshire County Council, which will discuss the measure today, said the savings would amount to £160,000 a year as part of budget cuts of £1.8 million.

But student leaders described the move as disastrous and said it would put undergraduates in danger. "Many students live in outlying areas which are already poorly lit," said Nick Forbes, president of the students' union. "Students are easy targets and this is pretty disastrous."

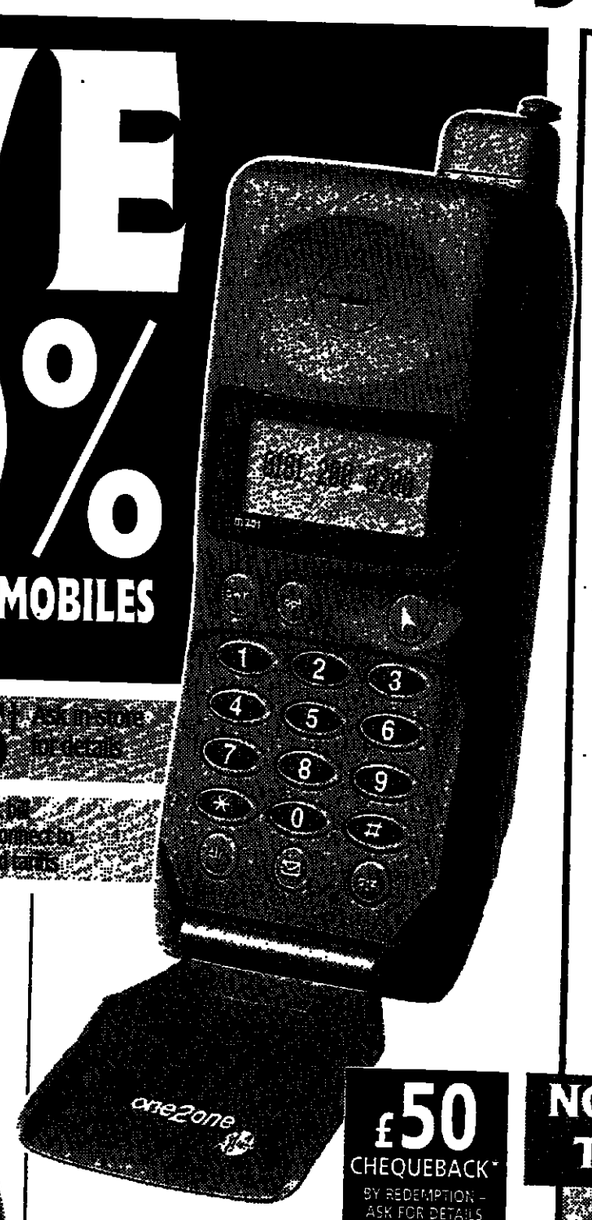
Traditional "town versus gown" resentment results in frequent assaults on students. Two were recently set upon by a gang using baseball bats and, in the past eight months, 32 students have been mugged in Cambridge by gangs who prey on young people, often forcing them to withdraw money from cash machines.

Ashleigh Williamson, the former president of Trinity College students' union, said: "This is a ridiculous proposal. Attacks are on the increase. There are a lot of dark alleys in Cambridge and some of the routes used by students will now be virtually pitch black."

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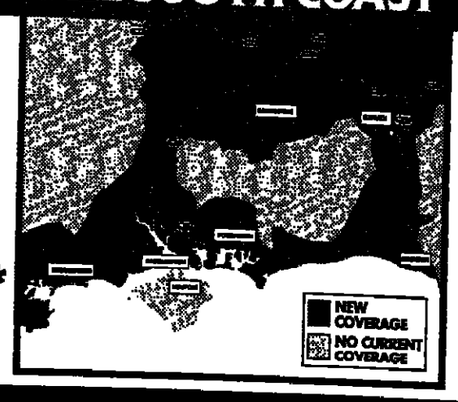
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League tables show councils are complacent about performance

REPORTS BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities are remarkably complacent about the efficient delivery of basic services, according to the second annual local *authority* performance tables published today by the Audit Commission, the public spending watchdog.

While those councils which performed worst last year have improved, the overwhelming majority have made little progress. "A big message to emerge is that councils really need to be more ambitious and start trying to do better," Andrew Foster, the Controller of the commission, said. "It is not enough to be just average. Everyone can and should improve."

The figures, covering everything from recycling rubbish to rent collection and care of the elderly, show that neither political control nor prosperity guarantees good performance.

Most councils provide a majority of services to a high average level, but there are still wide variations between the best and worst performances for similar services provided by comparable authorities. No clear pattern emerges. Poor councils in deprived inner cities sometimes perform better in some departments than wealthy authorities in prosperous shires.

However, the figures show clearly that identical services in comparable councils can be delivered to very different standards. "The accident of which council area you happen to live in can have very serious implications," according to Paul Veevers, who led the commission team compiling the figures.

No Conservative flagship, Labour stronghold or Liberal Democrat bridgehead can claim to be perfect. Departments in some hung councils could give object lessons in good practice to authorities with solid political leadership.

Parties will therefore have to be highly selective if they use the figures in the looming local election campaign, because good indicators in one department are often cancelled out by bad indicators in another. Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, said the indicators showed that council could no longer get away with waste and inefficiency. "Many councils used not to collect this information even for their own use, let alone publish it and be judged by their residents," he said. "This is open government at the service of the consumer."

Labour said that it intended to use the indicators to identify councils in need of help. The party has already said that it will send hit-teams of council management experts to authorities in difficulty.

Because the figures are a year old, covering the 12 months that ended last April, authorities with bad marks are already claiming that they have made big improvements. They include Lambeth, the London borough with one of the worst records, which has been under new management for the past year.

The average returns for the *five least-efficient London boroughs*, metropolitan councils, district and county authorities all show marked improvements. The worst group is 110 per cent better at processing council tax benefit claims within 14 days and 63 per cent better at paying student grants on time. They have cut the average time to relet a council home from 14 weeks to ten weeks and cut the average stay of a homeless family in bed-and-breakfast accommodation from 46 weeks to 26.

The worst performers, however, are still languishing at the foot of most tables. With rare exceptions they are councils in areas of high deprivation, which have a long way to catch up before reaching the national average.

Typical of the worst is Liverpool. It is the second-highest metropolitan council spender per head of population and is the worst at collecting council tax and rent. It has no recognisable complaints procedure or food inspection service and is one of *the slowest at providing equipment* to help the disabled. The city has, however, improved its performance over last year in nearly every department.

Westminster cut the amount it spends per head of population by £66 over the year, yet increased spending on education. On the downside, it has one of the poorest complaints procedures in London.

This year's tables cover a wider range of services than last, but most councils seem to have made only marginal improvements to their performance in most areas.

A TALE OF TWO COUNCILS

Tewkesbury Gloucestershire	Performance indicator	Berwick u Tweed Northumberland
68	Percentage of three and four-year-olds with a local authority school place	30
15.1	Percentage of people aged over 75 helped to live at home	6.9
66	Percentage of adults going into residential care who were offered single rooms	95
46	Percentage of children in local authority care placed with foster parents	73
79.2	Number of nights of respite care provided or funded by the authority per 1,000 adults	43.6
£21.72	Net cost of collecting council tax per chargeable dwelling	£16.14
53	Percentage of food premises due to be inspected which were inspected	100
1.5	Percentage of household waste recycled	11.8

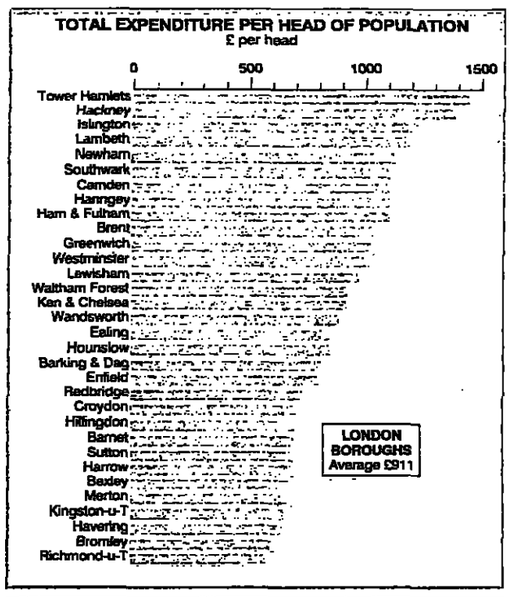
How to compare levels of service

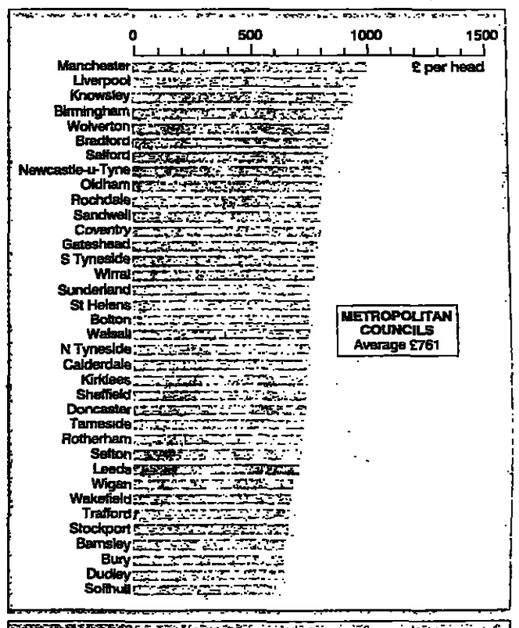
COUNCIL taxpayers can judge the value for money provided by their council by using today's statistics to compare authorities across England and Wales.

The tables disclose how the amount each council spends on every resident varies hugely, with costs inevitably higher in London and urban areas. They also show that services do not necessarily improve if councils spend more. Tower Hamlets spends £1,453 per head, the highest anywhere, yet its performance lags behind Southwark, which pays out £320 a year less per head.

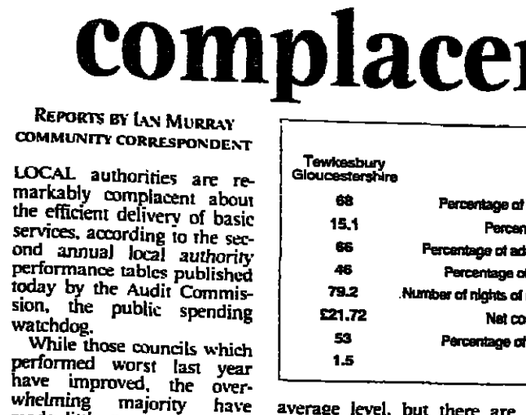
The indicators are to be published annually and this second series makes it possible for the first time to see if councils are improving their performance.

What improvements there are have largely been minimal, except among those authorities which were performed badly last year. The Audit Commission believes that the publication of the figures has been enough to inspire those councils to make a greater effort.









Tax bills will rise by 6% as town halls cut costs to appease voters

AVERAGE council tax in England and Wales will rise by 6.2 per cent next month, much less than the Government had predicted, after authorities decided to hold down costs rather than upset voters with steep increases.

The figure is 2 per cent lower than the Government estimated last year when it announced the level of support for local authorities. It has been held so low only by pruning £500 million of services, making more than 6,000 council workers redundant while dipping deep into remaining reserves.

The increase was announced yesterday in a written answer by David Curry, the Local Government Minister. He said the increase would raise the bill for a middle-range Band D property to £647. The rise would be highest, at 10.4 per cent, in inner London, and lowest, at 5.1 per cent in outer London.

However, very few councils are levying the average figure and many, especially Labour ones in inner-city areas, have been forced to raise their levels well above the average. The few remaining Tory councils have generally fared better.

A survey of English authorities by the *Local Government Chronicle* shows that the 19 remaining Tory councils have been able to reduce council tax by 0.03 per cent. Labour, with 165 councils, is asking for an extra 6.36 per cent, while the 109 hung authorities need an extra 7.76 per cent on average. The Liberal Democrats need only 1.48 per cent extra.

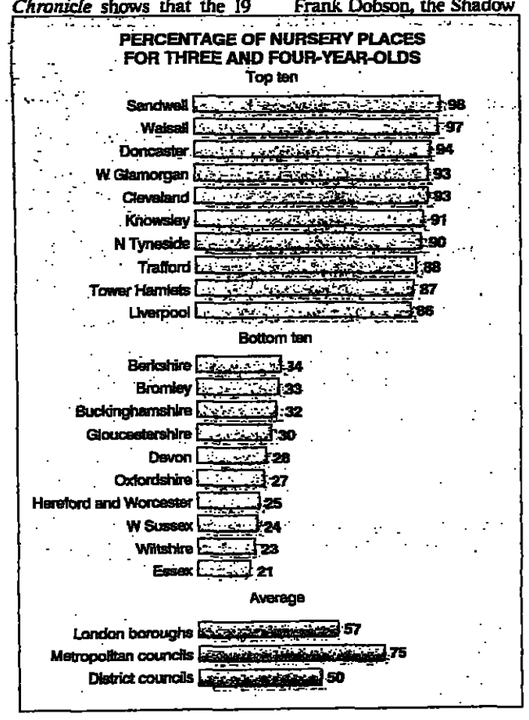
Residents in metropolitan authorities will pay an extra 6.8 per cent and district householders will have to find an extra 5.9 per cent.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said that the Conservatives had pushed up council tax in the hope that Labour would get the blame because it controlled so many authorities. "Over the next three years the Government hopes to force council taxpayers to cough up an extra £3.5 billion, equal to an extra 2p on income tax."

David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government, criticised the Government for using Band D as the average. "This does not take into account the larger share of properties in higher council tax bands in the few remaining councils under their [the Conservatives'] control," he said. "The Government's budget has put local authorities under tremendous pressure to raise more money locally."

AVERAGE BILLS

	Councils	1996-97	1995-96	% increase
England		£541.51	£511.60	5.8
Conservative	19	£525.48	£525.65	-0.03
Independent	13	£528.97	£505.38	4.67
Labour	165	£521.90	£490.70	6.36
Lib Dem	52	£569.80	£561.27	1.48
Hung	109	£562.07	£521.61	7.76



Collection rate is best in the shires

REVENUE

COUNCIL tax is proving much easier to collect than the poll tax, especially in the shires. Half of all district councils collect more than 97 per cent of the money due to them and the average for this type of authority is 96 per cent.

In London, however, the average is 88 per cent. It is dragged down by Lambeth, where a culture of non-payment grew during the days of the poll tax, when left-wing councillors urged residents not to pay. In the last set of indicators Lambeth collected 61 per cent, and that has now fallen to 55.3 per cent. Hackney has seen its collection rate drop even faster from 79 per cent to 69.1 per cent over the year.

Compared with these figures, the metropolitan councils have a far better record, with an average take of 93 per cent, which the commission believes should be the target for all councils. The least successful is Liverpool, which has the highest council tax level in England but collects only 81 per cent.

The cost of collection varies widely. In the City of London — a special case because of the small number of residents — it costs £129 per dwelling, compared with £44 in Labour-run Hackney, £21.98 in Tory Westminster and £11.39 in Liberal Democrat Sutton.

Outside London the collection costs are lowest in prosperous areas. In Surrey Heath, with a 96 per cent collection rate, the cost is £8.73 per dwelling. In St Albans, where the council collects 102.4 per cent, including unpaid tax from earlier years, the cost is £17.

The commission suggests it is not necessarily cash efficient to spend a lot to ensure 100 per cent collection: there may be a case for cutting the costs and accepting a lower success rate.

Checks on restaurant cleanliness vary widely

A WORRYING lack of consistency in the way councils carry out their duty to inspect places such as restaurants, school canteens and hospitals is exposed by the figures.

Councils must inspect places where food is prepared on a regular basis to ensure that hygiene standards are maintained, pests are controlled and rodents are eliminated.

Only a quarter of councils made all the inspections they were meant to. The worst

FOOD HYGIENE

performers made only a quarter of those necessary. "This must be a cause of great concern to people," the report says.

The differences bear no relationship to the number of places a council has to inspect. Some authorities with many premises to visit manage the job while spending less than others with only a few.

The commission says that some councils should reconsider priorities. Those who are not carrying out an adequate number of visits are urged to "reflect on the potential risk to the public".

In London, the inspection rate was 76 per cent of what it should be, with Westminster, which controls the largest concentration of restaurants, scoring 100 per cent. Islington managed only 40 per cent.

Outside the capital metropolitan councils averaged 79 per cent, although neither Liverpool nor Newcastle had a clear idea of how many they inspected. The tourist centres of Bath and Blackpool managed only 40 per cent.

Only 4% of household rubbish is reused

RUBBISH collection is the service that councils tend to do best. When the commission produced its first set of figures it found performance across the country was so good that it was not worth providing comparison charts.

The same is not true of waste disposal, however. The Government promised at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 that Britain would be recycling 25 per cent of its waste by the turn of the century. But the national average is only 4 per

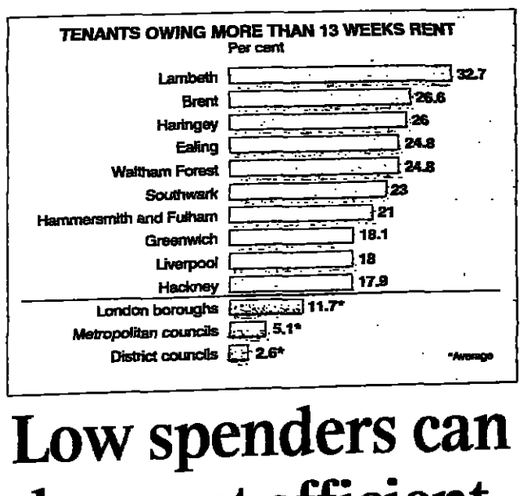
RECYCLING

cent. London boroughs lead the way at up to 9 per cent, shire districts recycle 6 per cent of their waste and metropolitan councils only 3 per cent.

The greenest authorities tend to be Liberal Democrat-controlled: Adur in West Sussex has the highest rate at 20.4 per cent. At the other end of the scale are councils such as Alnwick in Northumberland, Medina on the Isle of Wight and Slough, Berkshire, where little or no recycling is done.

Councils in the South and West recycle significantly more than those in the North, where only 12 councils process *more than 5 per cent of waste.* Epsom and Ewell in Surrey, the only council controlled by ratepayers' groups, improved its performance by 7 per cent over the year, trebling the amount it recycles.

The commission says that recycling can be cost-effective. Many councils that treated high levels incurred no greater costs per household than similar councils which recycled less waste, it says.



Low spenders can be most efficient

A QUARTER of the population lives in council-owned property, but authorities vary widely in their ability to manage their stock.

The speed with which a council can relet a property is crucial in the battle against homelessness. The ability to ensure that rent is paid — either directly or through housing benefit — is vital in balancing the books.

Years of neglect mean that inner-city authorities have a difficult job in matching the performance of more prosperous areas, but there are still glaring differences in performance between authorities with similar problems.

The contrasts are greatest in inner London, where Southwark manages to relet its property in just three weeks, compared with 26 weeks in Hackney.

However, Hackney has lopped nearly 11 weeks off its average time over the year — a feat also achieved in North-

HOUSING

ampton, where the wait is down to five weeks. The commission says that it is not necessary to spend more money to improve management since some of the better performers have low management costs.

However, councils with long relet times sometimes have high management costs as well. Authorities which spend little on administration and have a poor performance are advised to increase management costs if this can create a higher income through letting more properties and collecting more rents.

Rent collection generally is good, except in London, which contains nine of the worst 11 councils. Collection in the capital is more difficult because of the high turnover of properties and the difficulty of keeping a check on tenants who move frequently.

Geographical lottery in nursery places

THE lottery of state-funded nursery education is disclosed in the tables. The proportion of places for three and four-year-olds ranges from 99 per cent in Sunderland to 21 per cent in Essex.

Some councils spending two and a half times as much as others. Cleveland has one of the best records, providing 93 per cent of the age group with a place for £1,113 each. Wiltshire, which provides places for only 23 per cent, spends £15 on each child. On average, only half the under-fives in the shires have a council place provided.

In London the pacesetter is Tower Hamlets, providing places for 87 per cent, but each

PRE-SCHOOL

costs £2,600. Bromley, which provides places for 33 per cent, spends £1,660 on each. The average London borough provides places for 57 per cent, *but the proportion is* higher in inner London.

Even Coventry, the lowest provider among the metropolitan councils, finds places for 60 per cent of under-fives. Trafford, which was under Conservative control over the year, had places for 88 per cent at a cost of £1,290 each. Liverpool, with over double the population in the age group, had places for 86 per cent, costing £1,320.

London has highest costs per pupil

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EDUCATION

SECONDARY school education costs nearly 2½ times as much in the most expensive local authority as it does in the least. Lambeth, in south London, spent £4,113 on every secondary school pupil in 1994-95, compared with £1,655 in Enfield.

London boroughs on average spent £2,595 on secondary pupils, compared to £2,183 spent by metropolitan councils elsewhere in England and Wales, and £2,168 by county councils.

The second highest-spending London borough was Kensington and Chelsea (£3,283), followed by Hammersmith and Fulham (£3,222). The lowest were Enfield, Bexley (£2,065) and Bromley (£2,126). An education spokeswoman in Lambeth said the figure was raised by the disproportionate cost of relatively few pupils at a secondary school being closed down that year. The 1995-96 sum was £3,100.

Lambeth came 103rd out of 108 in the latest GCSE league table, whereas the lowest-spending authority, Isle of Wight, came 56th. The GCSE league-topper, Kingston upon Thames, where 55.5 per cent of students gained five or more A-C grades, spent £2,360 per secondary pupil and the bottom authority, Islington, with a 17.4 per cent A-C rate at GCSE, spent £2,949.

The biggest-spending metropolitan councils were Doncaster (£2,487), Manchester (£2,453), and Coventry (£2,343), and the lowest Wakefield (£1,952), Bradford (£1,959) and Bury (£2,031). Highest-spending counties were Mid Glamorgan (£2,557), Essex (£2,456) and Nottinghamshire (£2,418), and the lowest were Isle of Wight (£1,826), Northumberland (£1,841) and Dorset (£1,984).

EXTRA SPENDING VARIES BY DISTRICT

IN ADDITION to the amount spent by shires on education and social services, districts spend more on services such as housing and refuse collection. The extra amount spent per head by districts varies within counties as follows:

North	
Cheshire:	£109 - £73
Cleveland:	£144 - £103
Cumbria:	£122 - £88
Durham:	£124 - £83
Humberside:	£136 - £72
Lancashire:	£154 - £77
Northumberland:	£111 - £87
North Yorkshire:	£113 - £54
Midlands	
Derbyshire:	£108 - £81
Leicestershire:	£188 - £54
Lincolnshire:	£120 - £80
Northamptonshire:	£108 - £10
Nottinghamshire:	£146 - £72
Shropshire:	£107 - £71
Staffordshire:	£112 - £74
Central	
Bedfordshire:	£132 - £74
Buckinghamshire:	£118 - £72
Cambridgeshire:	£122 - £43
Hereford & Worcs:	£105 - £74
Hertfordshire:	£156 - £79
Norfolk:	£128 - £58
Oxfordshire:	£146 - £60
Suffolk:	£138 - £73
Warwickshire:	£104 - £81
South East	
Berkshire:	£142 - £72
East Sussex:	£145 - £89
Essex:	£158 - £82
Kent:	£123 - £74
Surrey:	£103 - £79
West Sussex:	£118 - £79
South West	
Avon:	£142 - £75
Cornwall:	£110 - £94
Devon:	£126 - £88
Dorset:	£119 - £74
Gloucestershire:	£105 - £47
Hampshire:	£134 - £74
Isle of Wight:	£114 - £107
Somerset:	£112 - £82
Wiltshire:	£99 - £79
Welsh Districts	
Clwyd:	£159 - £127
Dyfed:	£175 - £126
Gwent:	£196 - £129
Gwynedd:	£224 - £163
Mid Glamorgan:	£226 - £139
Powys:	£151 - £132
South Glamorgan:	£155 - £133
West Glamorgan:	£176 - £131

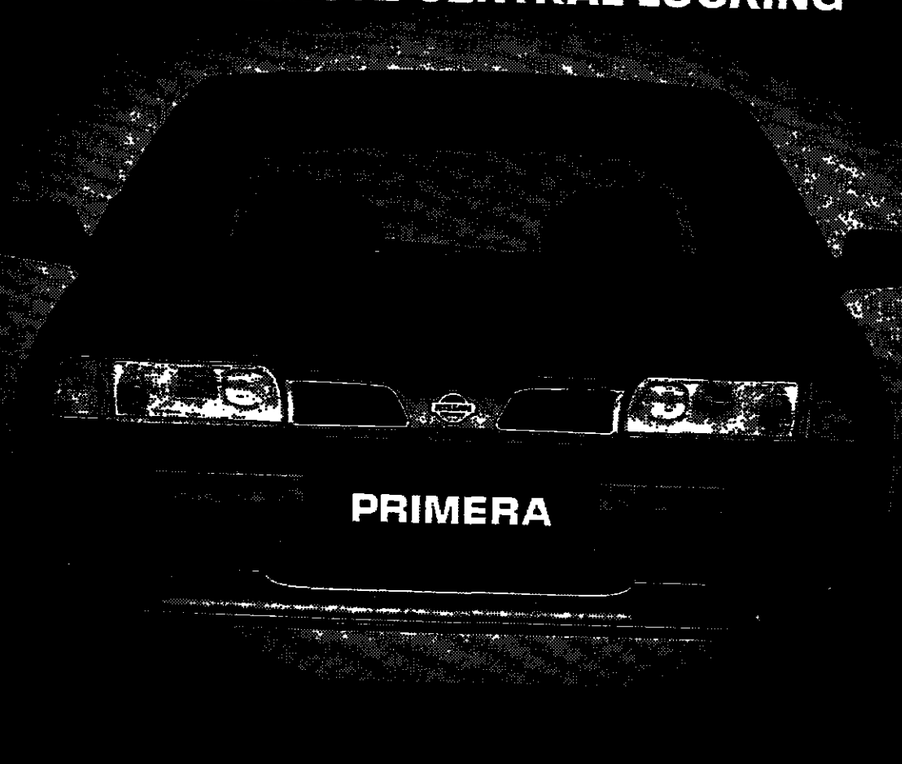
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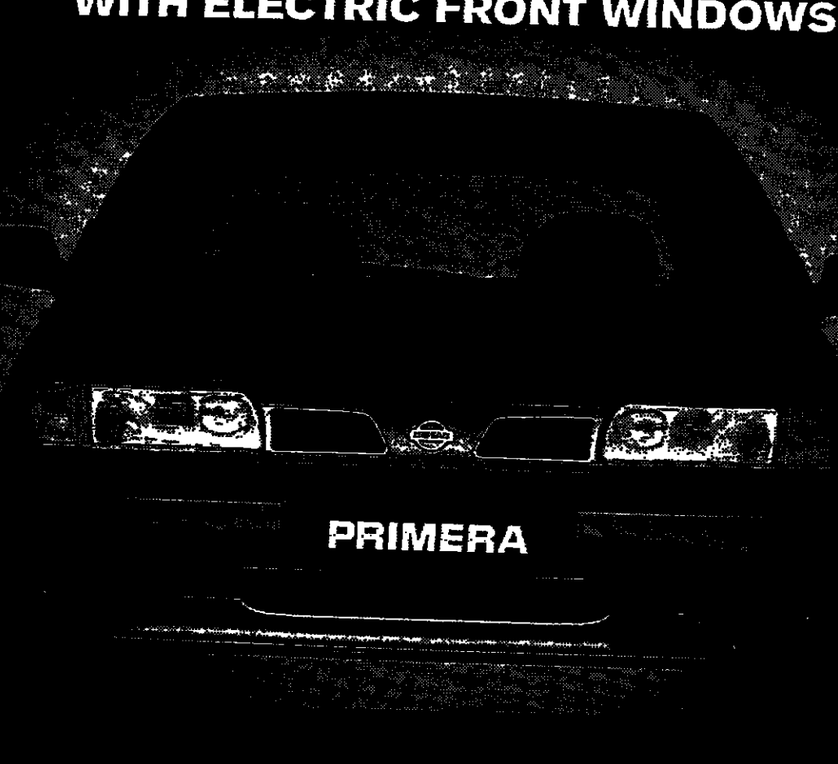
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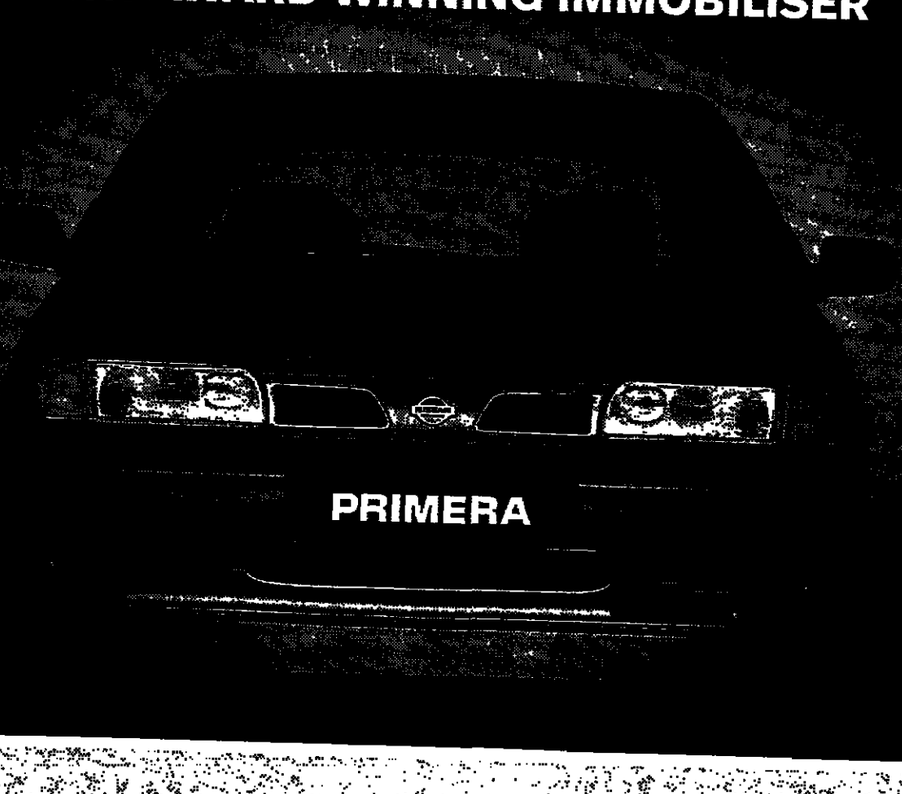
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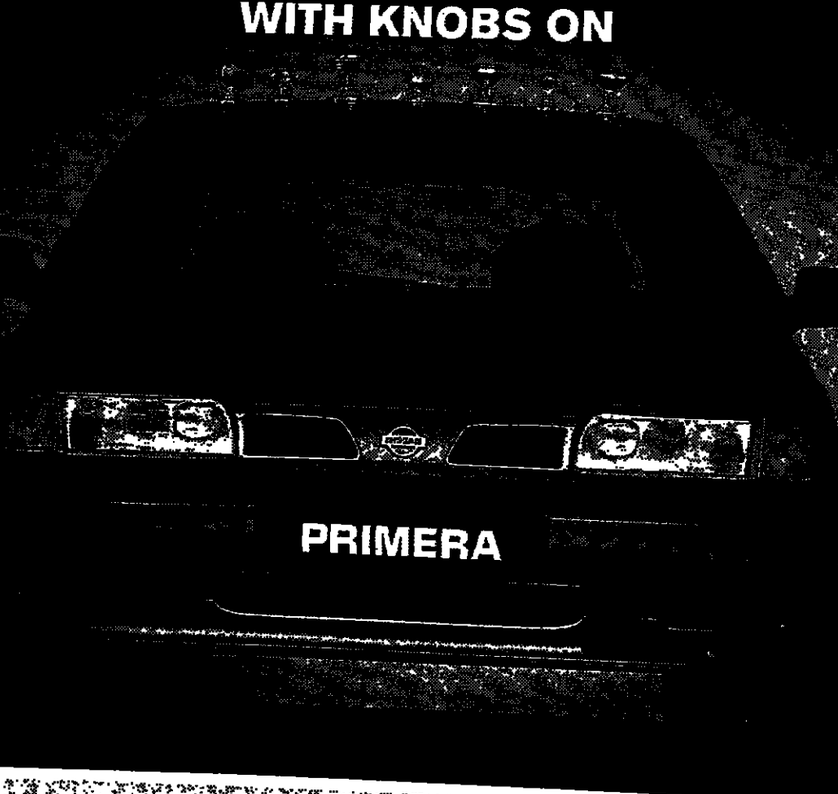
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Courtier's letter reveals wear and tear of Tudor social whirl


Henry VIII: wined and dined with close circle

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

AN UNPUBLISHED letter in which one of Henry VIII's young courtiers begged his father for more money after some excessive partying with the king has surfaced in Cornwall. "The King has been to Richmond which has emptied my purse but much more made my body weary," wrote Thomas Arundell to Sir John Arundell from the royal court of Henry VIII.

It is one of ten letters by Thomas Arundell that have been discovered among thousands of historic documents spanning the 800-year history of the Arundells, a prominent West Country family.

In this correspondence, he complained too about one of the women in the royal circle: "Lady Oxford is as obstinate as a mule and follows her own wish, not listening to her kinsfolk or friends, nor any other honest man ... If her niece were similar I would rather go to ruin than have her as wife."

Elsewhere, he described how his poor wardrobe was spoiling his hectic social life: "I am so bare of apparel that I do not come near my lord the king and fain myself such and so my lord is ridden from London to Hampton Court and I do lie with my lady Stanop until I hear from you."

Of making a visit home he says: "Sir I pray you to remember me for very glad would I be to make one sortie to see you for one week if it were your pleasure and I had the wherewithal."

Until 1991 the records of the Arundell family had been stored in 200 cardboard boxes and an old pram at Wardour Castle in Wiltshire, the family's ancestral home. Cornwall Record Office persuaded the family to sell the documents: some had already decayed or been devoured by mice.

Staff at the record office in Truro have spent three years repairing the 28,000 documents before recording the details on computer. Materials used included sausage skins to bind fragile parchment. The material, dating from the 12th century onwards, includes letters, marriage certificates, dowries and Papal bulls.

Dr Oliver Padel, a Cambridge medievalist who worked on the papers for 18 months, said the collection was of national importance because of the detail it contained: "These documents offer a real window into the past. It is rare for so much stuff to survive from the 12th and 13th centuries.

"In the past the documents could be examined by appointment at Wardour Castle by historians, but the lack of any index and the sheer mass of documents made proper research impossible."

The historian David Starkey, who is working on a biography of Henry VIII, said: "I would love to look at the letters. Although we have several glimpses of Henry's court, there are very large gaps — very few letters from members of the inner circle describing their own experiences actually survive."

Thomas Arundell joined Henry VIII's inner circle of courtiers, marrying the sister of Catherine Howard, the king's fifth wife. Court banquets and drinking complemented a summer day's hunting or a winter session of jousting. Proceedings could become unruly, according to Dr Starkey. Once, Henry VIII and his guests becoming bored, took up bows and started shooting arrows inside one of his palaces.

At the height of their powers the Arundell family owned 28 manors in Cornwall as well as properties throughout southwest England. But after the Reformation the influence of the staunchly Catholic family declined.

Public at risk from confusing sun-care guidance

By Adrian Lee

CONSUMERS are confused by labelling on sunscreens and largely ignorant about how to protect themselves despite the continuing rise in skin cancer cases, a study has shown.

Although the nation spends more than £100 million a year on sun-care products, the lack of information on packaging is disturbing, the Health Education Authority said yesterday. It urged manufacturers to provide better practical information to help to reduce deaths from skin cancer. There are now 40,000 cases a year — 90 per cent more than in the 1970s — and 2,000 deaths.

The study showed that more people were considering sunscreens as health products instead of tanning agents, but Dave Arnold, head of the authority's Sun Know How campaign, said: "It is disturbing that consumers are confused about on-pack information." Ignorance may be putting people at risk, he said.

Almost 70 per cent of people had heard of sun protection factors but only 20 per cent understood what the term meant. Women were more aware of the risks than men.

The majority of people now buy sunscreens but half said that information on labels was too technical. Few people understood the harmful effects of different ultraviolet rays.

Consumers should be warned, by the manufacturers, that sunscreens by themselves cannot entirely protect against skin damage, the authority said. Some people were using creams to enable them to sunbathe longer. Instead of burning after, for example, half an hour they were burning after two hours and still putting themselves at risk.

The findings, based on interviews with 2,000 people, have been presented to the industry. Tim Pemberton, projects officer on the authority's cancer team, said: "The 'buzz-word' now is lighter tan rather than dark. Any tan is a sign of skin damage but we have to be realistic. We are not going to get our message across by telling people not to tan at all."

One 90-second film persuades Hollywood studios to compete for skills of British duo

Novice animators hit the big time with Disney deal

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

TWO little-known British animators, whose only original work is a 90-second film about the thwarted ambitions of a small-town newspaper reporter, have signed a multi-million-pound feature film deal with Disney.

The Hollywood giant has asked Tim Watt, 30, and David Stoten, 33, to develop and produce two full-length animated films for international cinema release. Quentin Tarantino is being lined up to write the script for their first production, which will use 12in plasticine caricatures of living and dead Hollywood stars as its cast.

The duo, who clinched the deal at a secret meeting in Los Angeles last week, said yesterday that the past few weeks had been like "living in a fairytale".

Mr Stoten, who comes from Luton and trained at St Martin's School of Art in London, said that they were in discussions with Twentieth Century Fox to make a five-minute film when Disney became interested in their work.

"The next thing we knew we were at the centre of a bidding war between two big Hollywood studios. It felt unreal. Although we are trying to take it with a pinch of salt, you can't ignore all the excitement."

Mr Watts, who grew up in Castle Donington, Leicestershire, and trained as a draughtsman at Kingston University, said that the two owed much of their success to a chance meeting with Tarantino at the Nottingham Film Festival in 1994, where their first and only film, *The Big Story*, was screened.

After seeing the 90-second production, the Hollywood writer and director asked them if they would let him show it as the supporting film for his controversial box-office hit *Pulp Fiction*.

The Big Story thus received international media exposure. It was nominated for an Oscar last year and won a Bafta award. The film, set in a pre-war newspaper office, features three plasticine models of the actor Kirk Douglas, all playing different roles. Shot in black and white, it aims to recapture the mood of cinema films of the 1940s.

"Tarantino has been very good to us and in many ways he would be the obvious choice as a script collaborator. We will probably ask him to do work on the script," Mr Watts said.

Their first new film will aim to re-create the same nostalgic feel as *The Big Story* and will draw heavily on the history of Hollywood and its stars.

Both men, who plan to move to Hollywood, have worked for Spitting Image productions and commercials and believe that they have benefited from Britain's reputation as a world leader in film animation.

Mr Watts said: "The technical skills in America are great. What distinguishes British animation is that it challenges traditional formats and ways of doing things. It is more irreverent."

Last year Alison Snowdon and David Fine, a British-based couple, took the Oscar for best animation with their film *Bob's Birthday*. Other recent British animation Oscars went to Nick Park, who won with *Creature Comforts* in 1991 and *The Wrong Trousers* in 1994, and Daniel Greaves, who took the award in 1992 with his six-minute film *Manipulation*.

DES JENSON


David Stoten, left, and Tim Watt, whose first production impressed Quentin Tarantino at a film festival

Excluded surgeon's court plea

By Richard Duce

A LEADING heart surgeon began a High Court action yesterday to force a hospital to allow him to continue working after he made bribery allegations against a colleague.

Duncan Walker, a former Yorkshireman of the Year, rejected an offer of early retirement from the Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, after other doctors refused to work with him.

He has not been allowed to operate since June last year while the United Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust carried out an investigation into alleged concerns about his work. The trust now agrees there are no grounds for any disciplinary action against Mr Walker, 53.

The bribery allegation was dismissed after an investigation by the hospital.

Jeremy McMullan, QC, told Mr Justice Harman yesterday that Mr Walker was a cardiothoracic surgeon of "the highest level". He was urgently seeking a hearing of Mr Walker's right to work action, which the judge then set for April 1.

Incurable virus found in red squirrel colonies

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

AN INCURABLE disease is killing red squirrels in their last remaining strongholds. Scientists said yesterday that they had discovered a virus in the bodies of dead red squirrels collected from forests in northwest England.

Dr Peter Cotgreave, of the Institute of Zoology in London, where the autopsies are being carried out, said the virus was of a type called parapox. "It is like a chicken pox virus or a smallpox virus. Potentially a vaccine could be found but at the moment it is untreatable," he said.

"At the moment we do not know much about how the disease spreads. But it could be a very serious threat to red squirrel populations."

The institute found the virus in dead squirrels collected last year from the Southport and Sefton areas of Merseyside. Since then it has been isolated from other carcases in northwest England. Dr Cotgreave said that of the most recent batch of ten dead squirrels, three had the virus. The illness causes skin lesions.

Conservationists and scientists suspect that red squirrels may have been carrying the virus for some time. They believe it has become active because the red population is now so small, fragmented and stressed. Research has indicated that grey squirrels are beating red squirrels in the battle for food, leaving the reds with poor diets.

There are only about 160,000 red squirrels left in Britain, the majority in Scotland. The virus discovery, which could herald their final decline in the face of their more successful grey cousins, has been made possible by a scheme called North West Red Alert. The project has brought together groups including Lancashire and Cumbria wildlife trusts, the National Trust and Lake District National Park.

David Harpley, conservation manager of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, said yesterday: "We are trying to work out if this is an epidemic." He said up to 11 red squirrels had been found dead in one Lancashire wood. "That represents a fair number of squirrels in some populations."

Lynne Collins, also of the trust, said the autopsies could lead to other projects to help to protect Britain's reds. "In particular, we want to know how many have been killed by cars on the roads, and how many have been killed by disease or other factors," she said.

Ms Collins added that if wildlife groups found that stretches of road were "hot spots" where many animals died, they could perhaps relocate their feeding area to prevent them having to cross the road. Also, warning signs for motorists could be put up.


The red squirrel survives only in small groups

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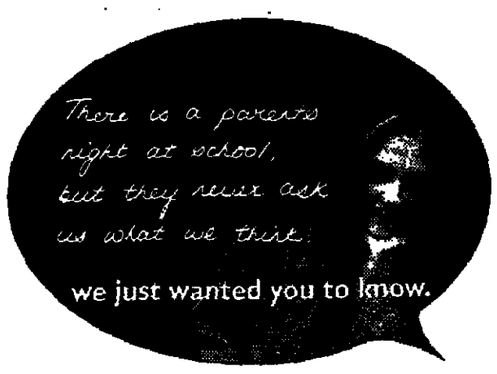
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America warns China to drop threats and sends 'best damned navy in the world' to Taipei's defence

US agrees high-tech arms sale for Taiwan

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA, in a further reminder to the Chinese of its military influence, agreed yesterday to sell mobile Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other defensive weapons to Taiwan, but denied a request to supply the island with diesel submarines.

Days before the territory enters its first democratic presidential elections and as tension mounts over Chinese war games in the Taiwan Strait, the Clinton Administration said it had agreed to supply a new weapons package during talks in Washington with Taiwanese officials.

The deal, which includes a batch of Stingers and the sale of an advanced targeting and navigation system for fighter jets, is expected to gain swift approval from Republicans in Congress who are critical of continued sabre rattling by Peking.

Still committed to its "One China" policy and to avoid further inflaming the Government in Peking, the White House rejected a long-standing request from Taipei for submarines to counter the improved naval capability of the mainland forces.

Taiwan is already engaged in the purchase of 150 F16 fighter jets and the United States has also promised to increase military training at American facilities for Taiwanese officers. The Taiwanese Government will send a team of experts to the United States to analyse the Chinese threat and to discuss the possibility of an anti-missile defence system.

Officials in Washington said this week's agreement was merely part of a long-standing American commitment to bolster defences in Taiwan and should not be considered out of the ordinary. Military sales to the island have averaged about $600 million (£392 million) in recent years, a slight reduction from the 1980s but still covering a broad range of military hardware, including fighter jets, helicopters, frigates, tanks and missiles.

"I would regard this as a fairly modest list of weapons," said a senior official. "The current situation over there has not changed anything."

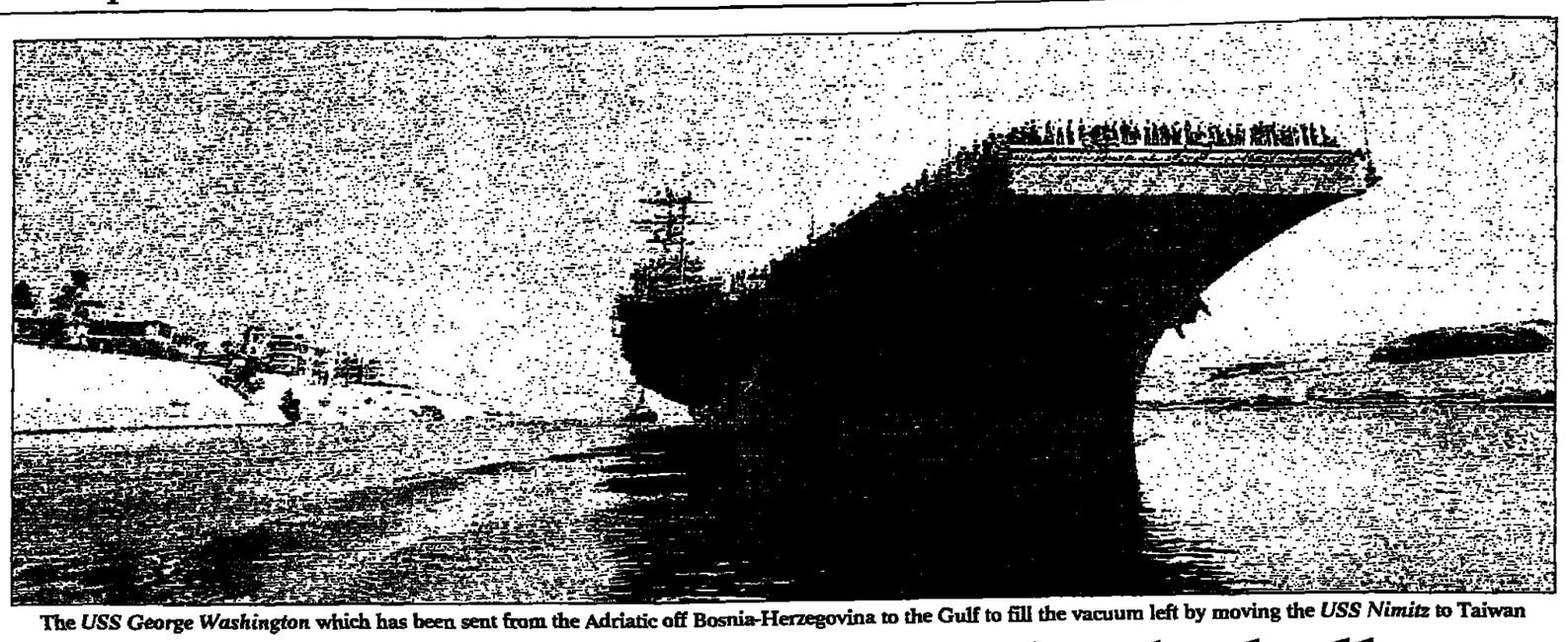
The sale is, however, clearly another deliberate warning to China to drop its muscle-flexing aimed at influencing the Taiwanese election. It came as Washington and Peking increased their rhetoric with China attacking America for its "brazen show of force" and William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, declaring the American force sailing for the strait as "the best damned navy in the world".

Mr Perry said: "While they are a great military power, the premier, the strongest military power in the Western Pacific is the United States."

Separately, the House of Representatives in Washington approved a resolution to help to defend Taiwan against Chinese aggression. The 369-14 vote ended a debate which was fiercely critical of the Clinton Administration's policy towards China.

"The Administration should consider this a wake-up call," said Lee Hamilton, an Independent congressman from Indiana. "The consensus on China policy is eroding. Congress and the Administration are drifting apart. The Administration has been too timid."

☐ **Pakistan's arsenal:** The Clinton Administration has notified Congress that it plans to go ahead with delivery of weapons to Pakistan that the Islamabad Government had paid for but never received, congressional sources said yesterday. The delivery had been held up for years because of Pakistan's nuclear programme. The weapons include navy Orion aircraft, Harpoon and AIM-9L missiles and other equipment worth £240 million. *(Reuter)*



The *USS George Washington* which has been sent from the Adriatic off Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Gulf to fill the vacuum left by moving the *USS Nimitz* to Taiwan

Chinese keep up war of nerves

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

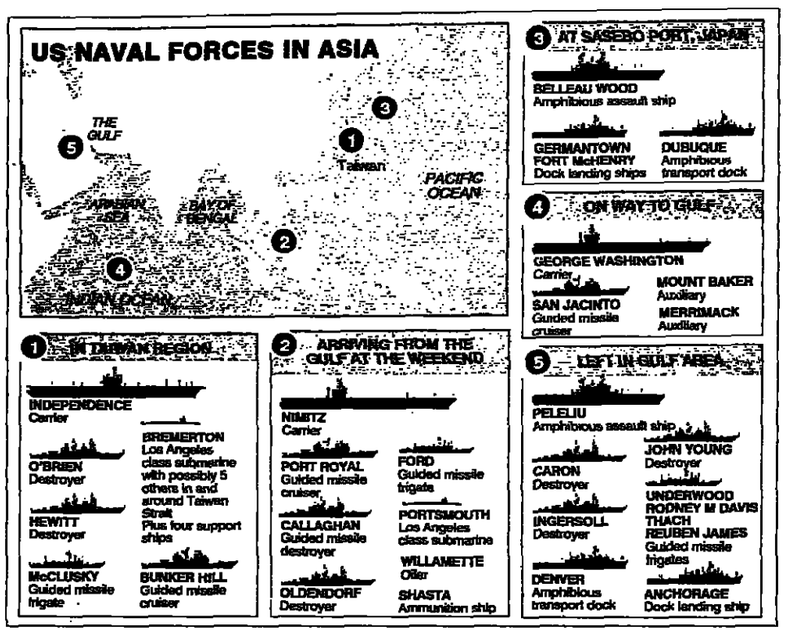
CHINA ended one set of live-fire military exercises in the Strait of Taiwan yesterday, as another continued — as did the rhetoric between the American and Chinese governments.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a non-binding resolution saying that America must defend the island if it is attacked. One congressman said the vote was an "unambiguous signal to Peking". Americans warships headed by the aircraft carrier *USS Independence* continued to patrol just east of Taiwan, while the carrier *USS Nimitz*, approaching from the Gulf, is expected at the weekend. Officials in Washington rejected warnings from Peking that American vessels must not sail through the Strait.

The latest Chinese exercise is due to end Monday, two days after the presidential elections in Taiwan.

Pentagon rises to cutback challenge

BY TOM RHODES



A BRIEF walk down corridor six in the Pentagon's "D" Ring at the Navy Command Centre gives proof of American might at sea.

The electronic maps, their small markers indicating vessels currently under way, are the most graphic illustration of comments this week by William Perry, the Defence Secretary, that "America has the best damn navy in the world, and no one should ever forget that".

There are 189 American ships at sea from a total fleet of 363. Of these, 102 are deployed outside American waters, including manoeuvres near the Straits of Taiwan, in the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Gulf.

Two battle groups, led by the aircraft carriers *USS Independence* and *USS Nimitz*, have been dispatched to international waters off Taiwan. The *Nimitz* will arrive from the Gulf by the end of this week to become part of what may be the largest and certainly the most formidable American armada in East Asia since the end of the Vietnam War.

The carriers hold at least 55 attack aircraft. Alongside them will be three attack submarines each carrying 24 weapons, including Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles as well as the Mark-48 torpedo. There are also accompanying destroyers and the *Bunker Hill*, a guided missile cruiser operating to the south of Taiwan. The US fleet is the biggest and most effective navy in the world, designed to manage what the Pentagon describes as "two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts" at any one time.

More than 420,000 members of the US Navy are on active duty with a reserve force of nearly 100,000. In peacetime, American ships are deployed for forward presence to act as a deterrent and to influence global policy, both of which apply in the case of Taiwan, and in some cases to coerce.

However, as almost anyone inside the Pentagon will admit, operational commitment often is not matched by naval power and, in recent years, the Defence Department has been forced to cope with a reduction in numbers.

For example, the navy has not been buying carrier-based jets as fast as they are wearing out and does not have enough aircraft to fill the deck spots on its operational carriers. The current operation in Taiwan has meant that the *USS George Washington*, which had been stationed in the Adriatic off Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been moved to the Gulf to fill the vacuum left by the departing *Nimitz*.

The balance between funding for force levels and readiness and modernisation stems from the Bottom-Up Review, a blueprint for the American military after the Cold War introduced by the Clinton Administration in September 1993. Compared to the Bush Administration's Base Force plan, the review soon became known as Base Force Lite.

Where the previous President had called for a reduced force structure of 12 active aircraft carrier battle groups, President Clinton demanded 11 and recommended a fleet of 346 ships, compared with 500 at the peak of the Reagan Administration.

Although the navy initially offered to reduce numbers even more drastically, defence officials in Washington soon recognised this could not anticipate for any contingency and have since argued that the fleet must remain at 346 by the end of the century.

A Pentagon official said yesterday: "The size of the fleet has been reduced after the end of the Cold War but as a result a lot of older ships have been removed. We now have a more modern fleet and our capability is very strong. We can still meet our commitments in the world."

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THE TIMES

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http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES

Free Democrats risk collapse in regional polls

Kohl's partners fight for survival in coalition



Roger Boyes *reports from Hechingen on the fading fortunes of the Chancellor's junior government partners*

THE chattering of helicopters and the wail of sirens signal the arrival of a rescue team. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, Wolfgang Gerhardt, the Free Democratic Party chief, and other luminaries dropped in on Hechingen yesterday to defend the euro, to boast about government successes, and to make a final attempt to save their shrinking party.

Hechingen is in the lush countryside of Baden-Württemberg, on the road to Switzerland. Like two other regions, Baden-Württemberg will have elections on Sunday, but much more is at stake than the fate of a few provincial barons.

If the Free Democrats collapse in all three states, the Bonn coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats will be in serious trouble. In Baden-Württemberg, the prosperous southwestern province, the elections have become a first test of voter sentiment on European economic and monetary union (EMU).

Plastered throughout townships such as Hechingen, where small efficient factories in ugly plate-glass buildings have been grafted on to rural communities, there are posters declaring "Stability and jobs come first. So: delay monetary union!"

The Social Democrats have covered the region with these posters, and politicians on the stump regularly inject a dose of Euro-scepticism into their speeches. They have to be careful, however. Social Democrat headquarters in Bonn is not entirely confident about waging an anti-euro campaign. The party is, if anything, more federalist than Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The campaign managers in Baden-Württemberg have put together three elements and come up with a rough and ready election formula that they hope will win drifting votes: two-thirds of Germans say they are against abandoning the mark; Herr Kohl cannot state publicly that monetary union should be delayed; and unemployment has become the most potent of political issues.

The election posters were originally rather more snappy. The first draft said: "Stop the Christian Democrats! Stable currency instead of more unemployed: no euro for 1999!" Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat leader who is also pressing for delay rather than a weakening of the entry criteria for EMU, had the posters pulped. "It was too close to what the far-right Republicans are saying," Renate Schmalz, a party activist, said. "This is a problem in Germany — there is no popular support for an anti-European platform, and simply to defend the mark smacks of nationalism."

Dieter Spöri, the Deputy Prime Minister of the region, Economics Minister and the mastermind of the Social Democrat campaign against the euro, said: "It is too easy for the other side to accuse us of being populist every time we raise an issue that is occupying ordinary people's minds."

Big companies in Germany generally approve of the euro, while small manufacturers are nervous; big banks are in favour, small ones are against. Baden-Württemberg is the home of Daimler-Benz and Porsche, but also of smaller export-oriented engineering and arms companies.

Herr Kohl's argument that delaying monetary union will cause a slide of funds into the mark and thus make problems for German exports does not really wash with these companies. They have built up global businesses *despite* a strong mark, on the basis of reliable servicing, pricing and delivery. To them, the euro threatens to be an inflationary, all-purpose currency.

Can the Social Democrats really scratch together more votes on the back of an EMU-sceptical campaign? Dr Spöri says that the party has risen by at least three percentage points in the opinion polls over the past month. However, he has also been tapping other controversial issues such as immigration, so the exact impact of the campaign is difficult to calculate.

The Christian Democrats and Social Democrats have a "grand coalition" in Baden-Württemberg. Broadly speaking, this alliance has worked for the past four years, although the state is no longer regarded as the main economic powerhouse of Germany; that title has been yielded to Bavaria. Since 1992, about 250,000 jobs have been lost in the state.

In Bonn too there is growing talk of a grand coalition. The logic runs as follows: if the Free Democrats lose their footing in the weekend elections, then they will also have lost their credibility as a coalition partner for Herr Kohl and the Chancellor will be in trouble.

Baden-Württemberg is thus being watched on two counts: is the grand coalition an enduring model? Is the euro a powerful election issue that can tip the scales against the Christian Democrats?

The other two elections on Sunday have less important implications. In Schleswig-Holstein, Heidi Simonis, the Social Democrat Prime Minister, is defending her absolute majority. Will she have to share power with the Greens? In Rhineland-Palatinate, a tired-looking coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats is wondering if the Free Democrats will survive.

In Hechingen, the slogan of the warm-up men in the town hall museum was: *Es Geht Um Alles!* (Everything is at stake!) The Free Democrats use this threat at every regional election, but have continually fallen short of the 5 per cent needed for parliamentary representation. If they lose in the three states at the weekend, they will be present in only one regional parliament.

Bill Cash, page 20



Gerhardt: leader of party in desperate trouble



Kinkel: minister anxious to defend the euro



Kate Winslet: performances marked by youthful passion have taken her to the top

A Titanic role for Britain's new star

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

KATE WINSLET, who has been nominated for an Oscar for her role opposite Emma Thompson in *Sense and Sensibility*, has vaulted firmly into the big time by landing the lead in *Titanic*, a $100 million action adventure set on the doomed liner.

Miss Winslet, 20, who is English, sprang to prominence in Hollywood last year with her performance in the New Zealand film *Heavenly Creatures*. She will know on Monday if she has won an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Marianne Dashwood, the sensibility of Jane Austen's novel.

Her latest role appears to require of her the youthful passion that has marked her best performances, but there the similarities end. As Rose Dewitt Baker, she plays an aristocratic young woman driven by *ennui* and curiosity to explore life outside the stifling first-class upper decks of the *Titanic*.

The film is to be directed by James Cameron, an action and special effects maestro better known for his work with the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger in *True Lies* than with English roses.

Emma Thompson, a previous best actress Oscar winner, is also up for this year's best actress and best adapted screenplay awards. If she wins both it will be the first double Oscar of its kind.

Pavarotti to leave wife after affair

BY RICHARD OWEN

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI yesterday admitted adultery with his 26-year-old secretary and announced that he was separating from his wife, Adua, after 35 years of marriage.

However, in a joint statement the Pavarottis said that divorce proceedings were not in prospect, and that the separation did not preclude a reconciliation.

The break-up of the Pavarottis' marriage became inevitable after the tenor was pictured on the front cover of the popular Italian magazine *Chi* last month in a passionate clinch with his secretary, Nicoletta Mantovani while on holiday in Barbados.

After this his wife wrote an open letter using her maiden name, Adua Veroni, reminding Signor Pavarotti of the support family life gave him and warning him not to make a fool of himself "in the sunset of your career".

The affair persisted, however, and there have been repeated rumours that Signor Pavarotti's secretary is now pregnant.



Pavarotti: admitted his adultery with secretary

France boosts conscript force to tackle violence in schools

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE will deploy more than 2,000 extra conscripts in schools across the country as part of a package of measures to combat a rising tide of violence in French playgrounds and classrooms.

After a series of violent incidents at schools in the past three months, the number of conscripts serving as "school auxiliary staff" would be increased by 2,200, François Bayrou, the Education Minister, announced yesterday. The massacre at the school in Dunblane, Scotland, has also had an effect.

The French Government began posting plainclothes national servicemen to schools three years ago, but the latest move has almost doubled the number of conscripts patrolling French schools.

Most schools in France are already equipped with surveillance cameras and other security measures but a spate of recent attacks has heightened fears that schools in some of the poorest neighbourhoods are becoming virtual "combat zones".

In Paris recently, a teacher was assaulted and badly injured by the parent of a pupil; during last summer's wave of terrorist attacks, a bomb was planted outside a Jewish school in Lyons; and last week, three pupils at a school in northern France built a bomb and then detonated it in a washroom.

The Government has also pledged to alter the penal code to make it an offence to enter school property without authorisation, and a new telephone hotline to the Education Ministry has been set up for battered teachers.

"The principle is that there should never be impunity for delinquents, wherever they come from," President Chirac declared yesterday.

M Bayrou also outlined plans to train teachers in how to deal with violent pupils and said special classes would be established in an attempt to create educational and work opportunities for young people who had dropped out of school. At a Cabinet meeting yesterday, M Chirac cautiously welcomed the Bayrou plan, but noted that he hoped it would not be "the umpteenth plan to have no effect".

Government officials said posting unarmed national servicemen in schools has proved an effective deterrent to violence and vandalism. The conscripts, serving their ten months of national service, act as auxiliary staff, performing a range of duties from monitoring playgrounds to running clubs after school hours and acting as security guards.

Grannies turn discount offer into profit

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AN ITALIAN supermarket that offered 20 per cent discounts to the over-60s has discovered the flaw in the scheme: resourceful and unscrupulous grandmothers have been hiring themselves out to shoppers who are under 60 but still like the idea of a discount on their grocery bill.

The management of the supermarket in Udine, near Venice, was surprised and delighted by the "unimaginable success" of its scheme. The "senior citizens discount" produced a 40 per cent surge in takings, making Udine, a medieval town hitherto best known for its Tiepolo frescoes, a Mecca for elderly shoppers.

It took a year for the penny to drop. "We seem to have been providing a social service," the manager said ruefully yesterday. "The ordinary shoppers made a saving, and the old people made a fortune in tips."

He knew there had been cases of middle-aged people pretending to be older, but he had no idea that teams of grandmothers had been operating a systematic scam, loading up trolleys of groceries and unloading them into the cars of strangers. The more enterprising had hovered near the entrance, whispering "Need any help with your shopping?" as customers arrived.

The reaction of many Italians was to applaud a display of enterprise. "This was no racket," said *la Repubblica*. "It was yet another example of our native Mediterranean genius, a brilliant scheme for saving money all round."

One defiant grandmother said at the checkout: "It helped to supplement my pension. I've never seen so much of my children and grandchildren before in my life." The scheme has now been dropped.



Chernobyl 'threatens 30m'

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DEADLY legacy from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster has been identified by scientists who fear that more than 30 million people in Ukraine may be at risk from radioactive contamination.

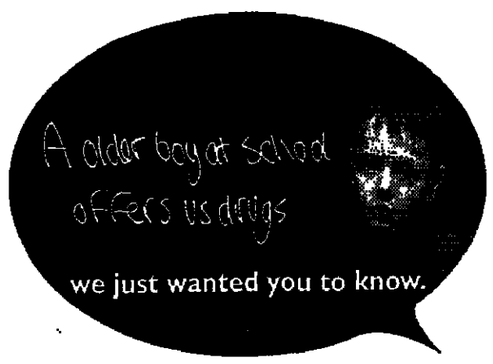
The risk is coming from water being washed by floods from near the crippled reactor into rivers used for drinking, irrigation and fishing. The findings, by a team of 59 scientists from eight countries, have come from a European Commission-funded study nearly a decade after the world's worst nuclear accident.

The scientists have said that fishing should be banned at Lake Kozhanov in Russia, 156 miles from the power plant. Tests indicate that the fish in the lake are contaminated with radioactivity that exceeds European safety limits by up to 60 times. The dangers are to be explained at a European Commission conference this week in Minsk. On April 26, 1986, the fourth reactor at Chernobyl exploded, spewing vast amounts of radioactive particles into the air which then rained down on large swaths of Europe.

The scientists now calculate that the accident deposited 380 terabecquerels of strontium and plutonium on the floodplain. Over the past decade this has flooded six times with another inundation expected this spring. Umberto Sansone, of the Italian Government's Environmental Protection Agency, said yesterday that each time radioactivity was being washed and deposited into the Pripyat river, which feeds the Dnepr. The two rivers supply drinking water to abourt nine million people and irrigation and fish for a further 23 million.

Dr Sansone said the threat was being aggravated by underground dumps where contaminated parts of the crippled reactor and radioactive pine trees have been buried. The dumps could also leak into the river systems contaminating them in 10 to 15 years time, the scientists said.

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PRUDENTIAL

Perot hint of challenge for White House sours Dole victory celebrations

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE emerged yesterday with a mathematical lock on the Republican presidential nomination for which he had yearned so long, but he was clearly rattled by Ross Perot's strongest hint yet that he will mount another bid for the presidency.

The Senate leader's clean sweep of all Tuesday's four Midwest primaries carried him comfortably past the 996 delegates he required to clinch a nomination he first sought 16 years ago. But even amid the celebrations he disclosed that his wife, Elizabeth, had telephoned to warn him of Mr Perot's latest statement. "It does concern me ... it helps Bill Clinton."

The Texas billionaire, who said he would run if asked by his fledgeling Reform Party because "I just can't sit here and see things deteriorating", won 19 million predominantly Republican votes in 1992 with his campaign to clean up Washington, balance the budget and kill free trade agreements, and was widely blamed by Republicans for President Bush's defeat. A Gallup poll this week gave Mr Perot 16 per cent support, enough to wreck Mr Dole's presidential hopes if he once again split the anti-Clinton vote, and the Senate leader appealed to him during a television interview to stay out: "Ross, we are the reform party. Take a look at your checklist, take a look at what we are trying to do in the Republican Party. I think every issue you've raised we have had or will have a vote on it ... Ross, what else do you want?"

Mr Dole's pleasure at securing the nomination barely a month after his humiliation in New Hampshire was also tempered by a close reading of Tuesday's results in the industrial Midwest which will be November's most crucial battleground. He romped home in Ohio and Illinois, but in Wisconsin and Michigan, Pat Buchanan won 34 per cent of the vote. That was his highest in any primary so far and much more than he won in either state in his 1992 campaign. Exit polls showed nearly half the voters believed Mr Dole lacked any new ideas, would lose in November, and were unhappy with the choice of candidates. The 72-year-old senator also performed poorly among independents and those who voted for Mr Perot in 1992.

Buchanan aides used the figures to float the bizarre idea that Mr Dole should ask the populist conservative to be his runningmate because he alone could galvanise the blue-collar "Reagan Democrats". Greg Mueller, Mr Buchanan's spokesman, said: "They ought to consider it if they want to win." He also gave a warning that Mr Buchanan might run as an independent if Mr Dole ignored his platform. "There is immense pressure on Pat, not only among some senior aides here at the campaign, but also among our grassroots activists and the grassroots leadership. They're saying, 'Don't endorse Dole, and run third party'."

Mr Dole showed no inclination to bargain with Mr Buchanan and focused exclusively on Mr Clinton. He told cheering supporters at a packed victory party in a Washington hotel that November's election would be a clear choice between "a candidate who will fight for change and a candidate who will campaign for change then fight for the status quo". He added: "The fall campaign is under way. It's 230 days to defeating Clinton."

Photograph, page 24

Drug-resistant TB 'is likely to kill tens of millions'

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

A DRUG-RESISTANT form of tuberculosis, in which body tissue takes on the appearance of cheese, is poised to kill tens of millions of people across the world, according to the World Health Organisation.

The new plague, which will be far more widespread and devastating than Aids, is "only a whisker away", the WHO will announce in London today, because warnings about the global threat from the disease made three years ago have been largely ignored.

The strain of the disease, which is airborne and therefore far more contagious than Aids, has infected people in London and New York, as well as in the developing world. Dr Joel Almeida, medical officer for the WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme, said yesterday: "No one is safe; even the Queen is not immune. You cannot protect yourself by wearing a condom."

Tuberculosis is expected to kill 30 million people this decade, according to the organisation. After decades in remission, the disease is epidemic in parts of Russia and is spreading worldwide, the WHO said.

Merlin, the British medical relief agency that is helping to fight an epidemic in Chechenia and Siberia, has issued a warning that the drug-resistant strains of TB are emerging because many infected people are not completing courses of antibiotics. If patients abandon their treatment half way through the six-month course, the bacilli survive and develop immunity.

"If the multi-drug-resistant strain becomes predominant, we will be back in pre-antibiotic days," Dr Almeida said. "All we will be able to do is pray and send people off to sanitoriums like we did in the last century. There will be nowhere to hide except perhaps go to the moon. Eight out of ten people catching the disease contract the pulmonary form, but this can affect anywhere: spine or the brain, which sends you mad. A patient's body tissue suffers caseating necrosis, which is from the Latin for turning to cheese, so healthy tissue becomes cheesy and patients begin to cough it up. Some drown in their own blood."

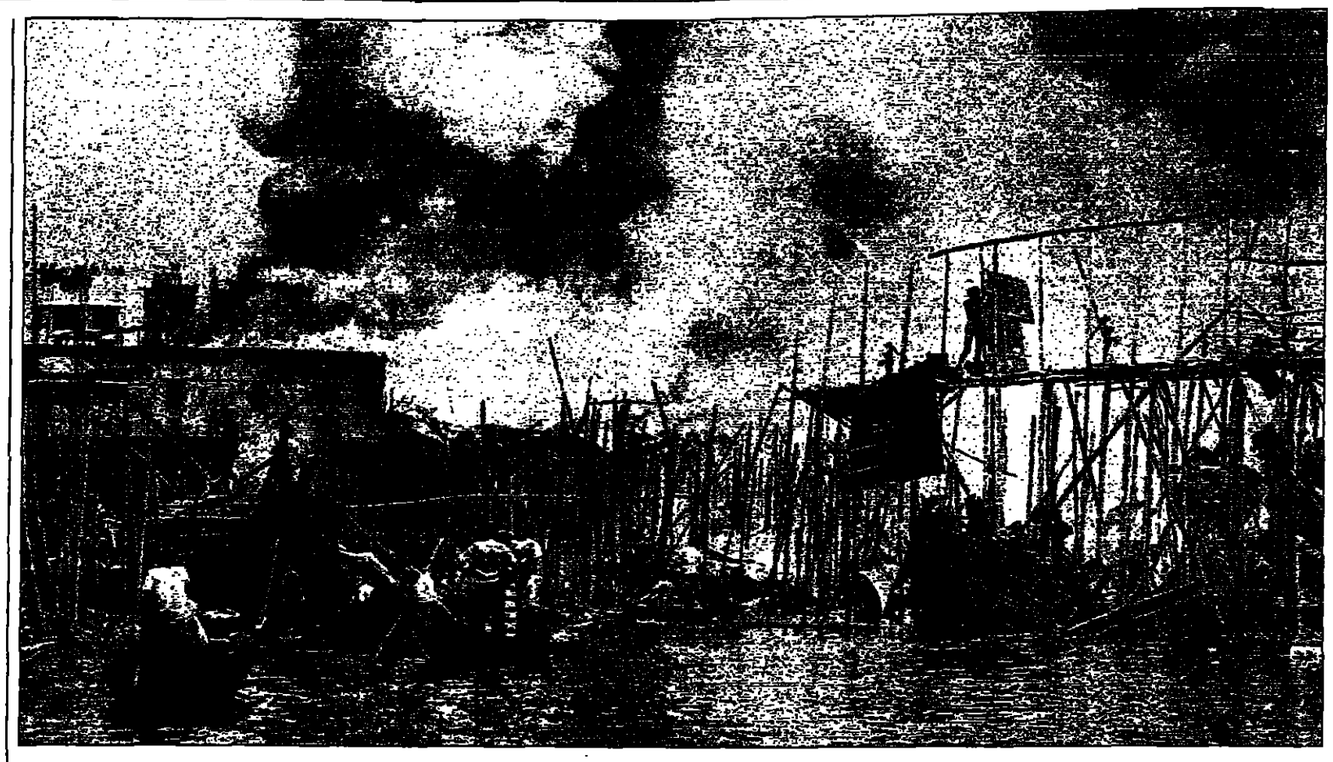
> "In a big outbreak, all we will be able to do is pray and send people to sanitoriums"

Today in a press conference drawing attention to the threat in the run-up to World TB Day on Sunday, Merlin joins the WHO in pressing governments and non-governmental organisations to spend more money on a campaign to curb the drug-resistant strain through a treatment known as DOTS, Directly Observed Treatment, Short course, in which health workers ensure that patients complete their antibiotic courses. World TB Day will also be marked by a religious service conducted by a former TB sufferer, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in Cape Town. President Mandela of South Africa also contracted the disease while he was a prisoner.

A third of the world's population is infected by TB which causes more than a quarter of avoidable adult deaths in the developing world, the WHO says. It predicts that 300 million people will become infected in the next ten years and, without treatment, each victim will infect ten to 15 others every year.

The WHO wants the world's governments to invest $500 million (£326 million) a year to fight the threat. The organisation estimates that that would save the lives of three million breadwinners, or £15.6 billion a year.

"People looking to invest in the emerging new global markets are only a plane ride away from disaster," Dr Almeida said. "The scale of the problem is far more vast than people seem to realise. One big outbreak, and you will have governments scrambling to do something about it, but it will be too late."



Residents of a Dhaka slum area watch from the safety of river shallows as their homes burn yesterday. The disaster, which may have been started by an overturned stove, left thousands of people homeless in the Bangladeshi capital. To add to their troubles, soldiers built bunkers and mounted heavy guns in strategic positions in the city as the country slipped further into political chaos (Ahmed Fazl writes). In the nation's second city, Chittagong, armoured lorries left the garrison to secure a main road linking the two cities. Opposition activists have held the port virtually under siege for the past two weeks. Strikes are part of an opposition campaign, led by the Awami League, to bring down the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party Government of Begum Khalida Zia.

Thousands homeless after fire

Murder victim tapes final minutes

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A WOMAN who was abducted at gunpoint in the United States managed to switch on a tape recorder in her handbag and record the last minutes of her life.

Her actions provided police with a record of the gunman's voice and personal details and her desperate attempts to talk him out of his folly. She failed, however, and was suffocated.

The 24-minute tape, part of which has been released by New Jersey police, shows that in her final moments Kathleen Weinstein thought she had succeeded in persuading the gunman to leave her unharmed. Showing remarkable calm, she told the youth he was making a mistake and promised not to tell anyone about him if he let her go. She also gleaned his first name, age, and details of his past.

In excerpts released by the police, a steady-voiced Mrs Weinstein, 45, told her assailant: "Don't you understand, though, what kind of trouble you are going to get in? Don't you think they're going to find you? You haven't done anything yet. All you have to do is let me go and take my car."

Mrs Weinstein, a teacher, was abducted in the car park of a shopping mall where she had stopped to buy a sandwich.

Police have arrested a 17-year-old, named by a newspaper as Michael LaSane. Last Thursday's attack took place on the day before his 17th birthday, when he allegedly went to look for a car for his birthday present. Investigators believe he took a fancy to Mrs Weinstein's red 1995 Toyota Camry.

At one point on the tape, Mrs Weinstein appeared to crack under the strain. She regained her composure to press on her abductor the consequences of his actions. "Do you really want that on your head? Hijacking a car and leaving somebody?" She also told him about her husband and six-year-old son, and of her desire to foster a child.

The gunman's answers will not be made public until the case reaches court, but Mrs Weinstein's part of the dialogue continued: "Why don't you just start all over again and not take the car and let me drive you somewhere? You'll be safe and you won't have to get in trouble. Whatever trouble you're in, you didn't add to it yet, right?"

The last words were proved sadly wrong. Mrs Weinstein's body was found, hands and feet bound, in a copse near her home in Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

She had been suffocated with her coat. In its pocket was the tape, which she had managed to transfer from her handbag.

Video ruling for Clinton

Washington: A judge yesterday spared President Clinton the embarrassment of a personal appearance at the trial of his former Arkansas business partners, ruling that he could give evidence on videotape (Martin Fletcher writes).

However, Judge George Howard refused the President's request for advance notice of the questions.

Mr Clinton's testimony was demanded by Jim and Susan McDougal, the Clintons' former partners in the Whitewater Development Corporation, who have been charged with fraud and conspiracy.

They want the President to rebut a claim by David Hale that as Arkansas Governor Mr Clinton put pressure on him to make an improper $300,000 (£196,000) loan to Mrs McDougal from a small business programme.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



At long last the Hubble Space Telescope is living up to expectations, sending back information that is rewriting the history of the universe and spectacular pictures such as this of the formation of stars in the Eagle nebula seven millennia ago

In the **Magazine** on Sunday, Peter Millar charts the astonishing work done by astronauts and astronomers which put the Hubble project back on course

A GARDENING VIDEO FOR JUST £1.98

Learn from the experts how to create a garden from scratch, or adapt an existing one, in a 60-minute video from the Royal Horticultural Society, Making a Small Garden. It usually costs £14.99 but is available to readers of The Sunday Times for just £1.98. See the Style section

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Russians blunder in space

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN scientists have worked out why a satellite they launched with Russia failed after only one day in orbit: the Russians had wired up the solar panels the wrong way round.

Instead of charging the batteries on the £4.5 million satellite, the panels discharged them. "It's always the simple stuff that kills you," said Dr James Cantrell, in charge of the mission at Utah State University.

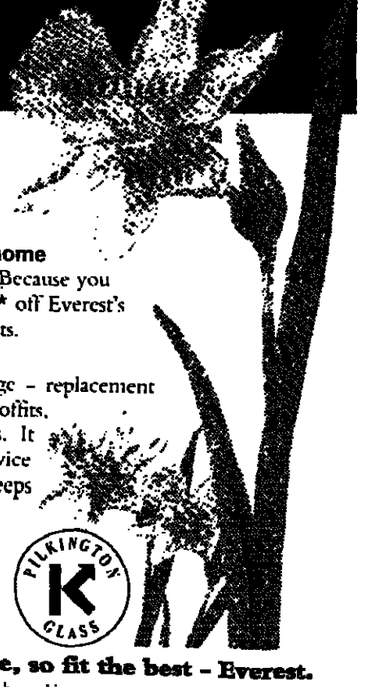
The satellite, called Skipper, was designed to stay in orbit for 30 days to test its ability to detect and identify incoming missiles, as part of a space defence system. The Pentagon paid for it.

Dr Cantrell declined to blame the Russians. "It's not that they're stupid," he said, admitting that his own scientists failed to detect it.

The debacle is not the only problem clouding US-Russian relations in space. After two link-ups between an American shuttle and the Russian space station *Mir*, and with a third planned this week, they are arguing over who will command the space station once it is built.

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Mandela financial offer spurned as Winnie fights on

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA said yesterday that she would challenge a court order granting President Mandela a divorce, just hours after he offered her an out-of-court financial settlement.

The South African leader's initiative followed a rejection by the Supreme Court of Mrs Mandela's claim to half his estate, estimated by one newspaper at about £6.6 million. She failed to appear in court or to send a lawyer.

On Tuesday a judge upheld Mr Mandela's claim that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, and ordered Mrs Mandela to pay legal costs. Her request for an adjournment after dismissing her lawyers was rejected by the court as a ploy.

In a statement issued through his lawyers yesterday, Mr Mandela said: "I'm glad that the case is over and regret that my ex-wife could not bring herself to negotiate an amicable settlement. It would have saved us both and our children much pain."

However, Mrs Mandela later indictated that there may be more pain to come. In her first public comment since the divorce was granted, she said she was seeking legal advice on whether she could take the matter to the highest court in South Africa, the Constitutional Court. "Once it became apparent that the court expected me to conduct my own defence, despite my humble request for an opportunity to enable preparation, it seemed the only appropriate remedy for me to enforce my constitutional rights to a fair trial will lie with the Constitutional Court," she said. "It is disheartening for me, as it must be for millions of women and men who expect a democracy entails that fairness and justice would rank far higher than an obdurate adherence to rules of procedure."

There is speculation over why Mrs Mandela is continuing to resist the divorce. Some say it is for revenge, others believe she fears loss of power and influence. A close family friend said: "Her resistance to the divorce is a way of vindicating herself and restoring her dignity. It is that she is fighting for."

If that is the case, however, it seems to have backfired. Evidence in court has highlighted her infidelities and spendthrift ways. The President yesterday submitted new papers in court, describing her as a big spender living beyond her means.

The papers showed that Mr Mandela gave her more than three million rands (more than £550,000) between February 1990 and June 1995. The highest amount listed was 600,000 rands for Mrs Mandela's mansion in an area of Soweto dubbed Beverly Hills, which she came close to losing after defaulting on mortgage repayments.

Another 552,000 rands was for the legal costs of her kidnapping trial after the killing of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage activist.

Mr Mandela's original affidavit disclosed that while his ex-wife earns 16,000 rands a month as an ANC MP, she spends 107,000.

The papers also show that Mr Mandela lavished gifts on their two daughters, spending 996,000 rands buying them houses, cars and paying for their children's schooling. It has been suggested that, despite claims about his wealth, Mr Mandela does not have a large amount of disposable income. A third of his income goes to a children's fund and his two homes are thought to be owned by the ANC. Yet the documents show that he has spent about four million rands on three family members over the past five years.

Despite her position, Mrs Mandela is clearly determined to fight on. A friend said: "She is strong and determined to fight back. You can't put a lion down."



Kenneth Clarke greets "Mr Lover Man", encased in a condom to promote Aids awareness, in Soweto yesterday

Relaxed Clarke practises safe politics

BY INIGO GILMORE

WHILE Kenneth Clarke's "friends" hint that he might resign over a commitment to hold a referendum on the European single currency, thousands of miles way in South Africa yesterday he showed his determination to enjoy the perks of office.

Except for his pinstripe suit, the chortling Chancellor might have been mistaken for any middle-aged British tourist on a visit to Soweto. Soaking up the sunshine, the paunchy minister went on a jolly walkabout yesterday morning, sampling cold drinks, nibbling snacks and joking with residents.

The Chancellor, who has a knack of including bird watching on foreign visits, is on a fact-finding mission for British business. He has been accompanied by ten executives from leading companies to discuss business opportunities and privatisation.

Mr Clarke was in Soweto to see some of the projects supported by British aid. These include The Lambeth Walk, a row of small business premises constructed with British help , and the Social Marketing of Condoms Projects, a programme to reduce the spread of Aids.

After an uncertain welcome from a giant yellow condom called "Mr Lover Man", his first port of call was Classique Marketing, a hair products shop. Then he was off again, bouncing along the sidewalk before ducking into the fish and chip shop next door. Mr Clarke's eyes widened and girth swelled. "Real chips," he exclaimed to bystanders.

But the Chancellor was not shirking his duties. He had intelligent questions and kind words for everybody, from an inebriated tramp to the large black female builder laying bricks.

Happily the Chancellor has a few more days before returning to the Treasury. Last night he left for Zimbabwe where he will meet government officials — and a few feathered friends.

Consul is held in babies for sale probe

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

JORDAN announced yesterday that it had arrested Sri Lanka's honorary consul as part of an investigation into the sale of illegitimate babies of Sri Lankan maids to childless couples around the world.

Judicial sources in Amman said the babies were sold for between £5,000 to £6,500 each, but would not disclose the number of children involved. There are an estimated 16,000 Sri Lankans in the Hashemite kingdom, mainly working as maids for about £65 a month.

Government officials said Tawfiq Abu Khajil, a leading Jordanian businessman who serves as honorary consul, faced an investigation on several charges. He is currently in hospital after complaining of heart pains.

Diplomatic sources in Amman believe that the case could have links to other parts of the Middle East. In Colombo, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry told Reuter that it was aware of the case, but had no details.

Some Sri Lankan maids in Jordan, made pregnant by their employers or lovers, have been forced to return home with the child after standing trial for conceiving out of wedlock. Under Jordanian law, adoption is permitted, regardless of nationality, but under tight restrictions.

It was unclear last night whether any British families were involved.

Raid on Ugandan village leaves 34 dead

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

CHRISTIAN extremists, backed by Sudan's radical Islamic regime, killed 34 people and kidnapped 58 others in a raid on a north Ugandan village. The attack put the death toll in an upsurge of violence by the Lord's Resistance Army in the past fortnight at more than 200.

The raid on Pabo village, 230 miles north of Kampala, the Ugandan capital, occurred as Islamic militants in neighbouring Sudan took control of the People's Congress in general elections.

The success in the elections of Hassan al-Turabi, chairman of the Popular Islamic Conference, his deputy, Ibrahim al-Sanousi, and Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, the Foreign Minister, puts the National Islamic Front at the centre of parliamentary power and erodes the executive authority of Omar al-Bashir, who won the presidential contest.

Their victory is likely to lead to greater backing for the Lord's Resistance Army despite the Khartoum Government's claim that it lends support to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Angered by the raids, President Museveni of Uganda vowed this week to wipe out the force within six months. He accused Khartoum of backing the group which wants to set up a regime in Uganda based on The Ten Commandments.

The Lord's Resistance Army, formed in 1987 by a self-proclaimed prophetess, Alice Lakwena, has a reputation for brutality. Those who reject it have their lips cut off with secateurs. Its "soldiers" have gone into battle holding sticks that Ms Lakwena claimed would turn into weapons. They also rubbed on their bodies oil that Ms Lakwena had blessed, claiming that it would turn bullets to water. However, her inability to turn oil into battle armour led to President Museveni driving the group out of Uganda in 1990, and its high-priestess into exile in Kenya.

Khartoum, stung by Uganda's covert backing for the SPLA, has rearmed the Lord's Resistance Army, which crossed back into Uganda this year with 500 soldiers. They have teamed up with a force already in the country, led by Joseph Kony, their new high-priest. The group has kept the Ugandan Army on the run, recently ambushing a 17-vehicle convoy and killing more than 150 people.

Dunblane's sympathy

Manila: The people of Dunblane have sent their condolences to the Philippines after a disco fire in Manila killed 151 people, mainly students, the British Embassy said yesterday.

Philippine investigators are trying to establish the cause of the blaze at the Ozone disco in the Quezon City district on Tuesday.

Yesterday the Philippine Government barred the owners of the disco from leaving the country and said anyone found to be negligent over the fire would face charges. ***(Reuter)***

Israelis destroy 'terror homes'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THREE Palestinian family homes in the occupied West Bank were demolished by Israeli security forces yesterday.

The action, despite protests by Israeli human rights groups, was part of an operation to destroy the homes of seven Islamic suicide bombers and their accomplices.

As the sappers blew up the home of Ibrahim Sarahneh, who killed one person in a suicide attack in Ashkelon on February 25, thousands of residents of al-Fawwar refugee camp where he lived were herded on to a nearby hill. The Palestinians shouted "God is greatest" and threw stones at Israeli troops, who responded with rubber bullets and live ammunition before a bulldozer flattened the remains of the two-storey house.

"This is a collective punishment which does not solve the problems of Jews and Arabs and does not serve the peace process," said Adnan Ghatasheh, 35, a resident of the squalid camp near Hebron.

Soon after he spoke, another house in the camp was blown up. It belonged to Majdi Abu Wardeh, who killed 25 people in the first of two attacks on Jerusalem's ill-fated Number 18 bus line. The families of both dead bombers are now living in tents provided by the International Red Cross.

Cabinet ministers say the demolitions are likely to be followed in the next few days by the deportation of senior suspected members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

☐ **Gaza:** A court here has sentenced three Palestinian men to hang for murdering a moneychanger. They have ten days to appeal. It is the first time that judges in the self-ruled area have imposed the death penalty. *(Reuter)*

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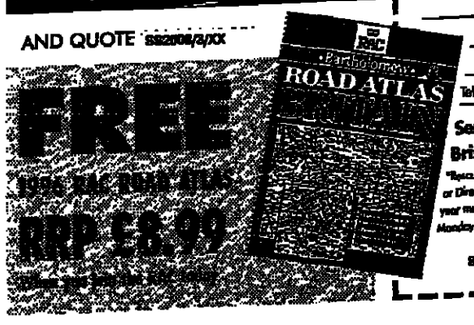
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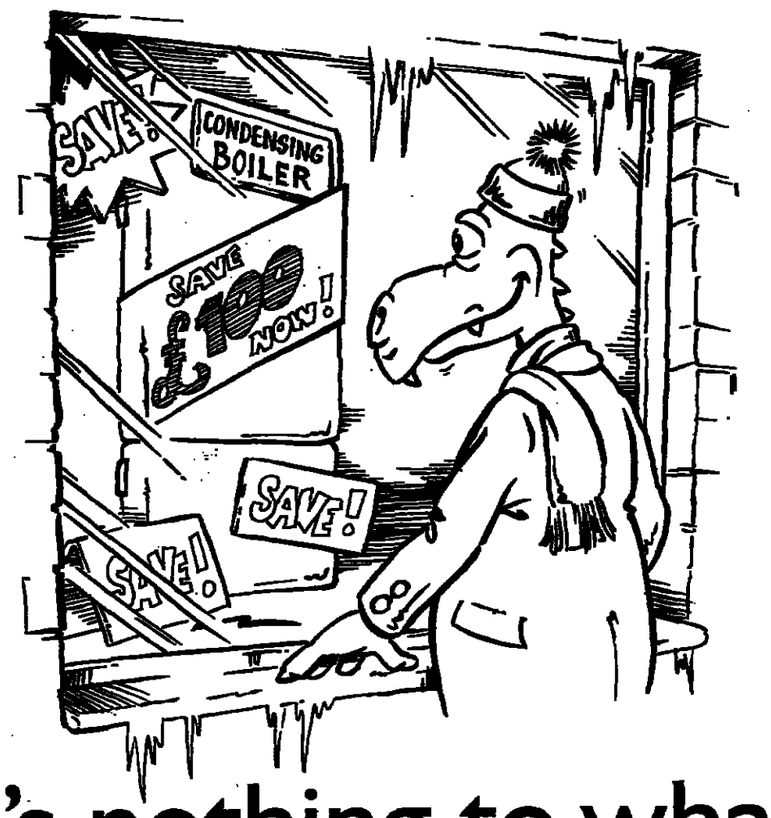
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WASTING ENERGY COSTS THE EARTH

Issued by the Department of the Environment in association with The Energy Saving Trust

How technology keeps a former MP hearty

Staying the pace



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

FORMER Conservative Members of Parliament who continue to take an interest in politics become Dinosaurs. The Dinosaurs is a dining club which meets a few times a year, where members renew old friendships, listen to ministerial speeches and offer advice and criticism.

Percy Grieve QC, who was the Member for Solihull for 20 years, is a Dinosaur who celebrates his 81st birthday this week. At the recent dinner he was as sprightly as ever. Mr Grieve's continuing interest in politics and the law, and indeed his life, is only possible because his heartbeat is maintained at an effective rate by a pacemaker. He had his first pacemaker fitted 20 years ago and is now on his seventh. Each has been more reliable and efficient than its predecessor. The early ones delivered a steady, fixed heart rate but his present device ensures a rate which varies according to demand. If he takes exercise, it quickens to compensate.

Nature provides a healthy heart with its own pacemaker: the sinuatrial node. The electrical impulse which keeps the chambers of the heart beating in sequence and at a suitable rate arises in the sinuatrial node and spreads across the heart along a conduction system called the bundle of His. In heart-block this conduction system transmits the impulse too slowly and the atria, the collection chambers, may beat out of phase with the pumping chambers, the ventricles. If the heart-block is complete, the atria and ventricles beat at entirely different rates.

Damage to the conduction system can follow heart disease. Less often it is caused by an abnormality of the heart muscle or by myocarditis — inflammation of the heart.

Some patients may not notice a minor degree of heart-block, while others will complain of light-headedness or fainting attacks. Complete heartblock can cause sudden loss of consciousness and may lead to a stroke or acute heart failure.

As Mr Grieve has found, pacemakers are now more reliable, have longer-lasting batteries and are less affected by proximity to electrical gadgetry than they were.

The most expensive models can even recognise a potentially fatal rhythm and adjust accordingly.

● *For details about pacemakers, send an s.a.e to the British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzharding Street, London W1 4DH.*

Can alcohol see off salmonella?

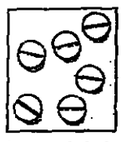


IF WINE drinkers needed an excuse to enjoy a bottle with a meal eaten in the sometimes unhygienic surroundings they find when travelling, it was provided a month or two ago by a report in the *BMJ*. Scientific research suggested that wine has anti-microbial powers. It was hoped that a glass or two of wine would help to dispose of any salmonella lurking in the food.

The *BMJ* report attracted the attention of a branch of the Centres for Disease Control Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, the world's leading infectious-diseases authority. The Americans investigated outbreaks of food poisoning between 1987 and 1993 for which it was recorded that alcohol had been taken. They conclude that the alcohol neither affected the chances of catching the bug nor, if it was caught, the severity of the symptoms.

The Americans acknowledged that their data was very limited and that it was possible that wine taken with every snack could have a protective role; but only at the cost of having to drink so much that the diner would be unable to operate anything more than a deckchair.

Steroids that target the gut



IN THIS asthmatic age, Pulmicort budesonide is as important to many young mothers as gripe water was to their mothers and grandmothers. Without budesonide their nights would be sleepless and their children breathless, for it is a drug used to treat asthma and croup.

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Budesonide is now being produced in another form, Entocort CR, which can be used to treat Crohn's disease. Crohn's, one of the inflammatory bowel diseases, can cause serious ulcers affecting any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Treatment with steroids usually brings about a remission but not a cure, and often causes side-effects.

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ERIC ROBERTS

Christening day for the ice-babies in August, 1987: watched by their parents Phil and Mary Wright, Dr Patrick Steptoe holds Amy (left) and Elizabeth

We're two little Frosties



How do you tell a child it spent its first months in a freezer? Tim Appleton (left), an expert in fertility treatment, can help, says Aileen Ballantyne

Explaining to an inquisitive six-year-old how babies are made is difficult enough for most parents, but when the mother's egg and the father's sperm had their first romantic meeting in a laboratory dish — followed by a spell in the deep-freeze — the usual euphemistic stuff about parents just cuddling each other very close starts to sound distinctly inadequate.

But help is at hand for the parents of the world's estimated 150,000 test-tube babies born in the past 18 years. One of Britain's leading infertility counsellors, the Reverend Dr Tim Appleton (who has a degree in natural sciences, two doctorates in cell biology and is also a priest) is producing a series of information packs, initially on CD-Rom, which will explain in simple but scientifically accurate terms what it means to be born as a result of "straight" in vitro fertilisation (IVF), from frozen embryos, or from donor sperm or donor eggs.

Two books, which are to be published separately in July, form part of the CD-Rom. The first, *My Beginnings, a Very Special Story*, is aimed at the estimated 16,000 couples in Britain whose children were born as a result of successful IVF. Many of the children are now aged between four and six, which is when most youngsters start asking questions about where they come from and how they were made. The book can also be easily amended by parents to cover babies born as a result of donated sperm or donated eggs.



Once upon a time in a very cold place... Tim Appleton's book *I'm a Little Frostie*

The second book, aimed at the parents of the estimated 2,000 British children born from frozen embryos — dubbed "ice babies" by the test-tube baby pioneer Professor Robert Edwards — is entitled *I'm a Little Frostie*.

Among the first parents to need particularly sensitive counselling from Dr Appleton, were Phil and Mary Wright, the parents of Elizabeth and Amy Wright, the world's first so-called "time-warp twins". The twins were conceived at the same time, in the same laboratory dish, but born 18 months apart.

Amy and Elizabeth, who live in Stoke-on-Trent with their parents, are now aged ten and eight, and were christened in a joint ceremony by the Rev Appleton.

The first attempt by the Wrights to become parents with the use of fresh embryos was a failure. However, several months later a second attempt using an embryo which had been kept frozen succeeded — and Amy was the result. The embryo that was to be Elizabeth was kept suspended in liquid nitrogen at minus 196 degrees centigrade until her parents were ready to complete their family. The few cells that make up an embryo at that stage of its development are considerably smaller than the full stop at the end of this sentence.

Amy was the world's eighth baby to develop from a frozen embryo which was successfully thawed and put into the womb. When Elizabeth was born 18 months later as a result of pioneering freezing techniques used by Professor Robert Edwards and the late Dr Patrick Steptoe, Mr Wright agreed to go public in order to counteract the "babies by convenience" criticisms then being made of IVF treatment.

"We had reporters camping in our front garden after the story broke," said Mr Wright. "We were concerned that as Elizabeth and Amy grew up they should understand why they were special rather than feel there was any stigma attached to the fact that they came from frozen embryos." With the help of drawings, and with advice from Dr Appleton, who began counselling patients at Mr Steptoe's clinic three years after the birth of the world's first test-tube baby in 1978, they have explained to the girls that their lives started outside the body when they were just a sperm and an egg.

"We have told them that mummy and daddy love them very much to have had them in that very special way," said Mr Wright. "Elizabeth has asked why we had to wait before thawing her embryo and we have explained that we had to wait until mummy's body was ready to have a baby again."

When the girls ask — as they inevitably will — what happened to the other eight eggs that were fertilised and became embryos at the same time, in the same laboratory dish, Mary, a special needs teacher, and Phil, a former PE teacher turned businessman, will explain that they were simply the lucky ones, and that, as in nature, most of the fertilised eggs did not go on to succeeded babies.

The fact that Elizabeth was kept "waiting" in deep-freeze has already led to a new variation on the usual theme of sisterly arguments. "Amy told Elizabeth on one occasion that they should have left her in the freezer — and, for good measure, added that it was a pity she was too big to put back," said Mr Wright. "But she did apologise afterwards."

Dr Appleton believes from the evidence of the many IVF parents who attend public reunions at Bourn Hall, Cambridge, and other leading IVF clinics, that most couples who have children resulting from straightforward IVF, from fresh or frozen embryos, decide to tell the child.

A need for the parents of babies born as a result of "assisted" conception to consider telling their child the full scientific details has arisen because the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority now keeps a record of all those born since August 1991.

At the age of 18, any child can check with the authority to see if it was the product of IVF or other assisted methods.

For one five-year-old boy Dr Appleton met last week, being told that he was born as a result of IVF has added a new dimension to life. "He now goes up to every woman he sees in the supermarket pushing a pram and asks: 'Did your baby come from your tummy or from a dish?'"

Medical technology is not the whole story, Dr Appleton emphasises: "The amount of love and support parents of such children have to give each other as they go through treatment is enormous. Babies born as a result of that kind of love are very special."

● *Further information from the Rev Dr Tim Appleton, Independent Fertility Concerns Resource Centre, Unit 5, The Maltings, Green Drift, Royston, Herts SG8 5DB. Tel: 01763 243782*

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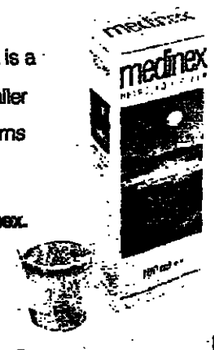
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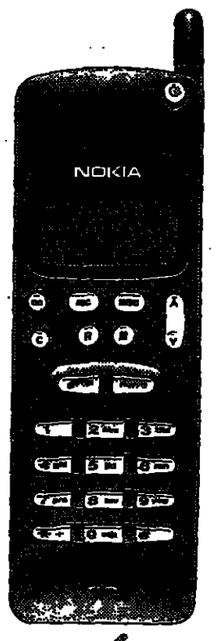
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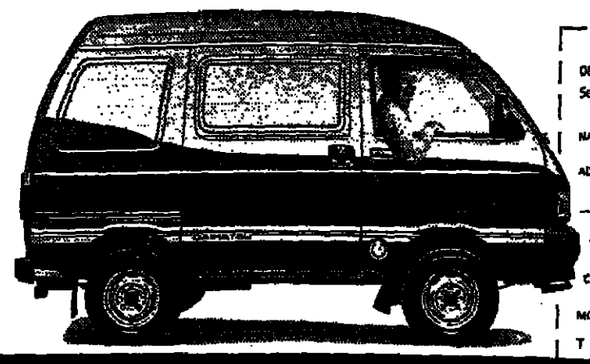
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Quentin Letts reports from New York on the launch of a fashion list that has dished the dirt on its rival

Who decides who dresses the best?


CORBIS-BETTMAN/UPI


REX FEATURES

Princess Lee Radziwill (left) was on Eleanor Lambert's best-dressed list in 1965. Michael Gross has included Elle Macpherson in this year's rival line-up

New York's *grande dame* of fashion is being challenged for her perch. Eleanor Lambert, who since 1940 has run the List of the World's Best-Dressed Women and whose social pronouncements can mince the most ambitious Lady Wishfort into catfood, finds herself with serious competition for the first time in more than half a century.

An impertinent young man called Michael Gross has started a rival list. To make matters worse, he is a one-time member of Miss Lambert's salon, and has dished the dirt on what goes on there — the social mugging, the graciously concealed backstabbing, the ballot tweaking. The betrayal is too ghastly for words and, behind the rustle of taffeta, the whispers are deafening.


Eleanor Lambert in 1966 (left) and now

Miss Lambert, who runs a fashion publicity company, knows the inside of every decent duplex on Fifth Avenue. She is Manhattan's answer to the combined clout of London's Christina Foyle and Betty Kenward. Her annual list is a social and historical chronicle, tending to favour diplomats' daughters, dames with old money and, to add zest, the occasional elegant movie actress. Its publication is eagerly awaited and was traditionally seen as a barometer of social progress as much as style. Tiffany, the jeweller, courts Miss Lambert's patronage and the wives of European noblemen pay homage in the hope of favours. Aged 80-plus, Miss Lambert glides through Upper East Side society with ease, raising a fragile hand, Queen Mum-style, to acknowledge the throng's salutes.

That frail mitt, in recent days, is rumoured to have been balled in irritation at the antics of the young Mr Gross. He, in conjunction with *Manhattan File* magazine, has announced the creation of a new annual register, the List of Best-Dressed New Yorkers Aged 40 and Under. The implication is clear: Miss Lambert's list has in recent years started to resemble a group outing from the Diana Vreeland Retirement Home.

Not content with starting a rival list, the impish Mr Gross, who has a solid if sharp reputation in New York fashion, ratted on his experiences as a committee member on Miss Lambert's list. He described how he and certain other fashion pundits were summoned one February day to her lair on Manhattan's Upper East Side to sift through the people nominated by more than 1,000 selected voters around the world. In fact, wrote Mr Gross, he and most of his colleagues "sat in stunned silence" while proceedings were marshalled and nominations polished by Miss Lambert's sidekick, the late Jerome Zipkin. Mr Zipkin and a couple of cronies, claimed Mr Gross, would "slice and dice" the reputation of people they knew well "until the poor souls' sartorial (not to mention social and sexual) reputations were left for dead on Miss Lambert's floor".

A source discloses that Mr Zipkin could not endure Mr Gross. "He was *furious* with Eleanor for letting Michael be a committee member," says the mole. "Jerry treated him with disdain. Perhaps Michael is getting his own back."

From its first days, the Lambert formula followed money, power and titular cachet. Take the 1964 list. A copy of a press release issued on January 3, 1965, hails the return of Mrs John F. Kennedy to the list after her period of mourning, together with her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, and her mother-in-law, Mrs Joseph P. Kennedy. Queen Sirikit of Thailand made the cut — "the most beautifully dressed person at the Greek royal wedding," notes the release — as did, among others, Mrs Wyatt Cooper (Gloria Vanderbilt), Mrs Alfred Bloomingdale and the Misses Anne and Charlotte Ford. That year also saw the admittance to Miss Lambert's Fashion Hall of Fame of such troupers as "Mrs David Bruce, wife of the US Ambassador to Great Britain, Mrs Walther Moreira Salles, a Brazilian living in Paris, Mrs T. Charlton Henry, of Philadelphia, in her late 70s but still celebrated for her taste in dress, and Rosalind Russell, the film star". Three years on it was the same story. The Best Dressed Women included Countess Vera Lehndorff (a fashion mannequin known as Verouschka), Rome's Princess Luciana Pignatelli, and a New York socialite, Mrs Montague Hackett. Scroll on a quarter of a century and the names on Miss Lambert's 1994 list somehow fail to surprise: Mrs Randolph Hearst, Princess Rosario of Bulgaria, Viscountess Linley and Harumi Klossowski de Rola.

By now there was a separate list for men which included John F. Kennedy Jnr, a peso-laden fellow called Fernando de Cordoba Hohenlohe, our own Hugh Grant and Prince Kyril of Bulgaria.

Mr Gross's list of trendy young men and women is a far cry from such refinement. Drew Barrymore is there, as is Brad Pitt's grungey flame Gwyneth Paltrow, Uma Thurman, Elle Macpherson and a fashion editor by the name of Cricket Telesco. From the boys, Mr Gross selects ill-shaven specimens such as Matt Dillon and Johnny Depp, an "in" Downtown bar owner called Eric Goode, a club promoter named Johnny Dynell and a ballet dancer called Jock Soto. For his selection committee, Mr Gross has again gone for respectable hip. Condé Nast's James Truman is on it, as is Gucci's Tom Ford and a clutch of other designers. They were given the brief to be "irreverent and incorrigible", in opposition to Miss Lambert's more appreciative approach.

The *grande dame* herself reacts to questions about the turncoat Mr Gross with spectacular indifference. "Yes, I think I read about this," she told me. "I couldn't care less if he wants to do it." She "hoped" that her committee members will continue to "draw a line at scruffiness" and noted that this sort of list is "an awfully easy way to fill up space in a magazine". Miss Lambert may be in the autumn of her years, but she is relishing this fight. She noted that Madonna is on Mr Gross's list. "Oh," she said faintly, demonstrating wicked humour. "I believe we had her on our list a number of years ago — when she was wearing innovative clothes. These days she is just a bizarre dancer, isn't she? It doesn't seem to have much to do with clothes any more."

Miss Lambert has tried to make her list younger. In 1994, for instance, she named "young internationals who figured prominently in the voting without appearing in the final lists". These included Maria Estrany y Gendre, the daughter of the former Argentine Ambassador to the US, Countess Tatjana von Bismarck, who is walking out with John Colman of the mustard family, and Christopher Fitzwilliam-Lay, a British banker on Wall Street. Fitzwilliam-Lay was as surprised as his friends by his inclusion, given that he wears English suits and careworn shirts. "My then girlfriend was responsible, I think, but it put a spring in my step," he said. It also brought him a few satirical remarks from his workmates.

The Lambert/Gross battle is more than a skirmish off the catwalk. It is a dispute over the social helm of New York, a fight between Chanel fans and the Kate Spade handbag set, Upper East Side and Downtown. Miss Lambert, who has done so much for New York fashion, is game for the fray and is a credit to her generation. Mr Gross, meanwhile, epitomises the iconoclastic wit of the modern age. Manhattanites are wary of saying which side they support.

Mr Gross's greatest triumph was arguably when he was still sitting on Miss Lambert's committee. After listening in despair to the seemingly endless array of counts, royalty, Southern dynasties and Bulgarian barons, he suggested the name of Queen Latifah, without mentioning that she is not actually royal but is a black rap singer. "Hmm," replied the Lambert committee members, sucking on their pencils. "Interesting." It was then that Mr Gross recognised the task that lay before him, a task that Miss Lambert is determined the whippersnapper will not complete.

ELEANOR LAMBERT'S LIST

Lady Sarah Chatto	F. de Cordoba
Veronica Hearst	Hugh Grant
Viscountess Linley	John Kennedy Jnr
Princess Rosario	Prince Kyril
Danielle Steele	Henry Kravis

MICHAEL GROSS'S LIST

Drew Barrymore	William Baldwin
India Hicks	Hamish Bowles
Elle Macpherson	Johnny Depp
Winona Ryder	Matt Dillon
Uma Thurman	John Kennedy Jnr

Getting through the morning after the night before

Hangovers are no problem, claim US scientists. **Giles Coren** wonders just what they have been drinking

HEAVY night, then?

Without doubt the most *irritating rhetorical question* in the world. Especially when you have arrived at the office shrunken-eyed, blotchy-skinned and with a head intolerant of alien intrusion. The implication is that you *have drunk foolishly the night* before and will not be up to the daily workload.

But according to a report by Pennsylvania State University, the implication is wrong. They exposed a group of *managers to nearly four pints* of beer over several hours, and found that their work the next morning was unaffected.

The findings were immediately pooh-poohed, however, by scientists and drinkers alike. Dr Barry Jones, a psychologist who specialises in alcohol research, raised the question of the quantity of alcohol administered, while legendary *bon viveur* Clement Freud was positively insulted.

"Four pints of beer is a ludicrous quantity," he ranted. "You can practically drive on that. If you can lie on the floor without holding on to anything then you are not technically drunk. And if you are really drunk you will be in no shape to work in the morning."

Anecdotal evidence is enough to corroborate Mr Freud's argument. We know that certain rudimentary and repetitive tasks can be performed by hung-over individuals, such as counting cursor blinks on a computer screen, or drawing grids on bits of paper and then filling in alternate squares. But such operations are hardly the stuff of economic revival.

The hangover is densely shrouded in myth. There are little mottoes such as "wine before beer and you'll feel queer" or "hair of the dog", and any number of offbeat cures, from raw eggs and lemon juice to the secret restorative prepared for Bertie Wooster by his gentleman's gentleman.

"Most of the received wisdom is nonsense," says Dr Bernard Dixon of the *Review of Alcohol Research*. "Hair of the dog is an excuse for alcoholics with tremors, and even fried breakfasts and coffee are pointless. You get hangovers for two reasons. One is dehydration, which can be prevented by drinking water. The other is higher alcohols known as esters or congeners — organic substances the brain doesn't like.

"THESE are more prominent in sherry and brandy, say, than in vodka, which is relatively pure. Red wine has more than white, but cheap red wine is even worse. In short, the more complicated the molecule the more likely you are to get a hangover."

Mixing drinks exposes you to more esters, but the order of drinking is immaterial. Likewise, people who stick to a regular tipple will develop a tolerance of its particular congeners. But if the habituated sherry-drinking granny succumbs to a drop of Baileys, the next morning's crochet circle will be a write-off.

And a poll of clinical pharmacists soon wrote off the report. They all insisted that hangovers make you feel sick because of the production of acetaldehyde — a stimulant of nausea — by an overloaded liver. This would not happen at the low alcohol level maintained in the tested managers.

There is only one question troubling insiders this morning: what exactly were the Pennsylvanian researchers drinking the night before?

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Victims of the safety first society

Magnus Linklater asks whether the medical profession should make outcasts of mere eccentrics

A friend of mine who has suffered from manic depression for many years finally felt well enough to apply for a voluntary job. He was interviewed and provisionally accepted. The idea was that he would start working with the local meals-on-wheels service, visiting old people in the company of an experienced hand. Provided all went well, he might move on to other duties. There was just one condition — he needed two references. He decided to ask his local GP, and the consultant psychiatrist who had helped him back to full health.

Both refused him the reference. Their reasons were depressing, if predictable: in the present climate of uncertainty about the treatment of mental patients, they had to act with extra caution: my friend had a history of mental illness, and they would be held accountable if anything went wrong; they felt that it would be safer all round if they withheld a recommendation. That he had been stable for a year, that he was a gentle soul with no history of violence and that he was especially good at working with people was less important than the potential risk.

All this took place well before the tragedy at Dunblane. I am afraid, however, that the savagery of Thomas Hamilton will have given those doctors little reason to change their minds. One of the many tragedies of that terrible day is that thousands of people trying to haul their way back into the mainstream of society will, for the time being, be tarred by the Hamilton brush. There will be no prizes for risk-taking when it comes to reappraising anyone with a history of mental illness. Could that shambling figure muttering to himself on the street corner be a child-killer? Should that mental patient, recently discharged from hospital, be taken back inside — just in case? As one psychiatrist with a practice in the Dunblane area told me last week: "My first thought, when I heard of the shootings, was: 'Could it be one of mine?'"

In the aftermath of that disaster, every instinct will be to tighten up on the way society deals with its more fragile members. Psychiatrists will be urged to review their lists, to pass on doubts they may have about dubious individuals to the local police, to become, as it were, a filtering system for the nation's misfits. When it comes to gun controls, there is likely to be pressure for some kind of psychological profiling before licences are handed out.

There will be hard questions asked, too, about the Government's care in the community scheme, which was designed to release patients back into society. The initial argument for that policy was that reintegrating those with a history of mental illness, rather than shutting them away, would encourage tolerance and understanding. Instead, as a result of a few violent incidents, it has had the reverse effect. Even the mildly eccentric or the vaguely loopy are now seen as potentially menacing.

It is to be hoped that Lord Cullen's inquiry will encompass this aspect of the Dunblane disaster as well as the immediate question of gun controls. But whatever conclusions he comes to, it would be a mistake to expect police, psychiatrists or social workers to close up all the gaps which the Hamilton case has revealed. After all, the most worrying aspect of his story is not that he slipped through the net, but that he was able to avoid it altogether. He had no criminal record, he appears not to have been a psychiatric patient, and despite all the gossip and the rumours about his deviant nature, he was allowed to carry on for year after year with his youth work, until finally deprived of the means to do so. It was this deprivation which, ironically, drove him to exact his revenge.

During the many investigations of Hamilton's running complaints, whether by councillors, politicians, or the officially appointed ombudsman, most people gave him the benefit of the doubt because they were influenced by a sense of decency and fair play. The ombudsman in particular, called in to decide whether he had been unfairly deprived of the means to continue his youth work, concluded that he was the victim of ill-founded gossip and innuendo, and ruled in his favour. In the light of this, it is very hard to assign blame to any of those who dealt with him — even the luckless police officer who signed his firearms certificate. There was, as in any civilised society, a presumption of innocence rather than guilt.

> Even the vaguely loopy are now seen as menacing

So it would be a terrible setback if, as a result of what happened in Dunblane, the traditional role of the medical services — to heal and to rehabilitate — were undermined; if psychiatric care were judged not by its success in easing the mentally ill back into circulation, but by its ability to isolate them; or if rumour and suspicion became sufficient reasons for refusing employment. What does need to be ensured is that sensible gun controls are introduced so that no one — whether a potential hitman or a careless Olympic marksman — is allowed open access to such deadly weapons.

My friend's tale, I am glad to say, does have a happy ending. He went back to the voluntary agency, which said that despite the psychiatrists' doubts it was perfectly happy to accept other, favourable, references. He is now working happily with a youth project, which enjoys his contribution as much as he appreciates being able to take the first step back into becoming a full and productive member of society.



A party of the nation?

Tories expect more than words, says **Bill Cash**

Today the Commons debates the White Paper on Europe, to which I replied yesterday in my own *Blue Paper*. This debate is so fundamental to the future of Britain that both Government and Opposition thought it wise to bury the issue with a one-line whip. This shows how far the Europeanisation of Britain has undermined the vitality and integrity of British politics.

The essence of British conservatism is that we retain through our Parliament the capacity to adapt to changing circumstances while insisting on the fixed and immutable principles of democracy, accountability and self-government. No British Government has the right to give this inheritance away.

The process of European integration contradicts these principles. The White Paper, high on rhetoric, is low on principle and silent on renegotiation of Britain's position. When I proposed putting monetary union on the agenda of the inter-governmental conference (IGC), so that this matter could be discussed as a question of principle, the Foreign Secretary replied: "I do not follow your suggestion that it is a matter of principle."

The White Paper speaks of our need to be "realistic about the sort of changes we can hope to achieve at the IGC . . . If we were to press ideas which stand no chance of general acceptance, some others would seek to impose an integrationist agenda which would be equally unacceptable". This is not realism: it is defeatism, even appeasement. It betrays a deeper problem, which the White Paper avoids, a stubborn refusal to renegotiate the Maastricht treaty despite all the evidence of its failure — in the areas of jobs, the exchange-rate mechanism, monetary union, Bosnia and fishing. We must reduce the powers of the Court of Justice by reducing the competences already granted. Maastricht entails an integrationist programme for European government, which must be repealed.

Speaking last month in Louvain, Chancellor Kohl failed to distinguish between nationalism and the democratic nation-state, when he threatened that the failure of European integration would lead to war. The truth is that we run this risk if we undermine the democratic nation-state. Chancellor Kohl insisted that "German unity and European integration are two sides of . . . the same coin". The Treaty on European Union is the acquisition of power by other means.

This issue should not be seen as a matter of left or right, but as a matter of national interest, on which the British people have a right to a referendum. There is yet time to resolve these questions, for the IGC does not begin until March 29, and will continue until after the general election. This raises the question of the Conservative Party manifesto and the Labour Party.

The failure of the exchange-rate mechanism before our exit on September 16, 1992, severely damaged the Conservatives' credibility in government, but we are steadily recovering it. The party must show the British people that this debacle could not happen again, by ruling out the exchange-rate mechanism and monetary union in our manifesto and during the inter-governmental conference.

The Labour Party is trapped. Gordon Brown says he wants managed exchange rates and monetary union. But if we Conservatives rule this out in our manifesto, we can demonstrate that Labour will be unable to fulfil its promises about jobs, health, education, public expenditure and a host of other issues. To fail to do so would be to throw away our best weapon in the general election. This involves renegotiating Maastricht, and perhaps telling the other EU members that otherwise we will veto the IGC.

Our British identity and independence have been withering in the face of attacks by Brussels, power-play in Germany and France, and the activities of Euro-fanatics at home. Conservatives must now match the rhetoric of the White Paper by putting British interests first when it comes to policy. We have been treated with too much contempt for too long by those with whom we have tried to co-operate. We can and will work with our partners in Europe, but only on mutual terms, not simply on theirs. We will not be trampled on. We will not watch as our laws are overturned by the Court of Justice and our institutions, which have stood the test of time, are derided and treated as hollow. We have saved Britain and Europe twice in a century, and we are now called upon to do so again.

If we do not regain for ourselves the only sovereignty which really counts, which is the political will and authority of a democratic nation, we shall deserve to fail. Then we shall enter a dark age of subordination to the will of others, and the Conservative Party will lose its *raison d'être*. As Disraeli said, "the Tory Party is a national party or it is nothing".

The author is Conservative MP for Stafford. The Blue Paper is available from The European Foundation, 1 Pall Mall, London SW1 (£5).

A poet rudely great

The sale of Pope's grotto serves to remind us of a poet who delighted in both satire and friendship

William Rees-Mogg

Alexander Pope is associated with many houses, with Prior Park in Bath, with Stanton Harcourt near Oxford, with Stowe in Buckinghamshire, even with Buckingham Palace, which he knew when it was a much prettier and rather smaller building. There are two brilliant engravings of old Buckingham House in Pope's 1723 edition of the Works of John, Duke of Buckingham. Pope's own villa at Twickenham was pulled down in the 19th century, just as Shakespeare's house at Stratford-on-Avon was pulled down in the 18th, but the grotto Pope designed has survived, together with the convent that was eventually built on the site. Twickenham still has his tomb in the church — grave-robbers with an interest in phrenology are said to have stolen his skull — as well as that beautiful house, Marble Hill, where he used to visit Lady Suffolk, George II's deaf but delightful mistress.

According to The Times Diary, the convent and the grotto are now to be sold; there are proposals to turn the site into a memorial both to Pope and to the landscape movement which he encouraged. As a Somerset man, I have mixed feelings about the grotto itself: Pope's friend Dr Oliver, the inventor of the Bath Oliver biscuit, probably the finest biscuit ever baked, sawed off stalactites from Wookey Hole to ornament the grotto, and had a bath named there in his honour.

I believe that many people's characters are shaped by the authors whom they most admire and read again and again. No doubt everyone who went through the full educational process of my generation was influenced by Shakespeare and the Authorised Version of the Bible, the twin pillars of English culture in the mid 20th century. Four other authors have gripped my particular temperament and interests: two philosophers, John Locke and William James, one moral critic, Samuel Johnson, and one poet, Alexander Pope. To each of them I owe a debt comparable to that to my closest friends and most influential teachers. I should be a different person without them. I feel about all of them much as Thomas Gainsborough felt about Van Dyke. His last words were said to have been: "We are all going to heaven, and Van Dyke is of the company." Pope himself shared this conviction of personal survival. A few days before his death in 1744, he said: "I am so certain of the soul's being immortal that I feel it within me, as it were by intuition".

My closeness to Pope started with my using him as an example of how to write. When I was at Charterhouse I even tried to imitate him directly, writing heroic couplets which were, I am sure, a miserable pastiche. One can only benefit from a study of any author's style when that author's work has been fully internalised, has become part of the fabric of one's own mind. For the writer of English, Pope is an essential model.

Pope's poetry is concise, energetic, ironic, clear and vivid. He uses visual images and contrast with great skill. As Lytton Strachey observed, no author has ever packed more meaning into each phrase and each line, yet one never has the stifling feeling of excessive density. When Voltaire was a young man, he came to England. In 1726 he wrote a charming letter sympathising with Pope after a carriage accident in which Pope had been "thrown into the river [Thames] with the glasses of the coach up, and was up to the knots of his periwig in water". Pope had received a bad cut on his hand; Voltaire wrote that the "accident concerns me as much as all the disasters of a master ought to affect his scholar".

Voltaire came to write French prose better than it had been written before or since, so well that his style is the style of educated France. Voltaire has exactly the combination of energy, lucidity and conciseness which is so marked in Pope's poetry. Pope's own phrase for it is "easy vigour"; that must still be the aim of every writer who wishes his meaning to have force, and his readers to enjoy reading what he writes.

Not everyone finds it easy to love Pope. He had a joy in combat which reflects the pain of his life. He was satirical by nature, he was devious and he was conscious of being a cripple. For his disability it is easy to sympathise with him, but one has to accept that he took delight in tormenting his enemies: one can imagine Lord Hervey at the breakfast table reading the character of Sporus:

> Yet let me flap this bug with gilded wings,
> This painted child of dirt that stinks and stings;
> Whose buzz the wity and the fair annoys,
> Yet wit ne'er tastes, and beauty ne'er enjoys:
> So well bred spaniels civilly delight
> In mumbling of the game they dare not bite.

Even now the accusation of androgynous impotence is rarely made, though we regard ourselves as more free-spoken than our 18th-century ancestors. Pope's darts got to the heart, and many of them are tipped with venom.

I am drawn to Pope partly because I share both his enjoyment of controversy in print and his liking for easy relations in person. Like him, I find it hard to resist making sharp comments on public characters — Hervey was a minister in Walpole's Government. I also share his preference for rows in print to those in person. I often use his phrases, sometimes even storing them up. I am still waiting for the public scandal worthy of the line, "And the fresh vomit run forever green".

In company, Pope was mild; despite his verbal skills, he would not have enjoyed mixing it on the box with the dunces of our age. He was also a good and loyal friend. Apart from problems that arose from women — he exchanged unforgivable insults with Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and had a coolness even with the benevolent Ralph Allen over an apparent slight to his friend Martha Blount — he kept most of his friends for a lifetime. They were remarkable people, including Jonathan Swift. His letters illustrate his friendships. After Horace Walpole's, they are probably the most enjoyable correspondence of 18th-century England.

To an ecumenical age, Pope's religious liberalism, echoing both Erasmus and John Locke, is more sympathetic than the more rigid dogma and sterner morality of many of his contemporaries. He believed in the universality of truth. He remained a loyal Roman Catholic to the end, despite the higher taxation and the civil disabilities which still attached to the old faith. Yet his attitude to his Church is shown by his response when his fellow Catholic, Nathaniel Hooke, asked whether he should send for a priest to give the last rites. Pope replied: "I do not suppose that is essential, but it will be right and I heartily thank you for putting me in mind of it." When the priest, Edward Pigott, left the bedside he said that "Pope's mind was resigned and wrapt up in the love of God and man". One could hardly end better than that.

Like Samuel Johnson, Alexander Pope regarded his vocation as an author as essentially that of a moralist. His two greatest poems are the *Essay on Man* and the *Moral Essays*. A few months before he died he said that the only commendation he longed for was that "he has writ in the cause of virtue, and done something to mend people's morals". The idea of the author as primarily a moralist was familiar in the 18th century — it is true of Swift and Johnson as well as Pope. It is less familiar in the late 20th century. We also have a difficulty, in that we can see the heroism of Johnson's character, but not so easily that of Pope's, though he had a greater physical disability to bear. We are reluctant to think that a serious moralist could take such delight in satirical attacks.

Pope has been the perfect friend for me, if an author can be the friend of someone born nearly 200 years after his death. I have shared the affection for many of the things he loved: the English language, the English landscape, the English country house, the Catholic Church, the zest of public controversy, the idea of a moral universe, the loyalty of friends, the conversation of women, an awareness of the absurd, the greatness of Shakespeare and the classics, and the company of books. I owe him more than I can say; I share his intuition of his immortality — he remains, after all, so much more alive than most of the rest of us.

About time

JOHN MAJOR'S great scheme to embarrass companies into paying their bills on time has sent one little firm into a flurry of activity. Thwaites & Reed, one of the oldest clockmakers in the country, has reorganised its business so that it can sue the Government for unpaid bills — while continuing to work for it.

The firm, founded in 1740, attends to Big Ben's repairs as well as mending external clocks on royal palaces. It is planning to sue for debts of more than £200,000 run up by Whitehall.

The bills date back many years, to when Whitehall scrapped internal agencies within the Department of the Environment without paying off the money they owed to Thwaites & Reed. The clockmaker has been on a fruitless paperchase to try to recover its money, and is now resorting to the courts.

"It was only recently that we were able to rearrange the business so that we could sue while at the same time carrying on our work for the Government," says Melvyn Lee, who owns the company. "We never thought of carrying out a credit check."

Bong!

● *Amid the latest flurry over "mad cow" disease, Douglas Hogg is undaunted. The Minister of Agriculture was in the Members' dining room of the Commons on Tuesday, digging unashamed into a piled plate of roast beef.*

China shop

OXFORD University's Bullingdon Club, a tail-coated organisation



"Cup of tea, dear?"

given to indiscriminate room-trashing and indeterminate strippers, is to let rip in the Natural History Museum. The famously debauched dining society has booked the main hall of the museum for its first ball in decades, on June 14.

All members past and present — ranging from Lord Longford, prison visitor, to Darius Guppy, former prison resident — have been invited to shimmy around the skeletons.

The Natural History Museum, which rents out its main hall for £5,500 a night, seems to be unaware of the club's reputation for debaggings, lobster-throwing and rolling mobile loos down hills. "We have a booking for the Oxford University Club," said a member of the booking staff. "That sounds respectable enough." They could end up with a large pile of bones.

Foxed

THE BROTHERS FOX (Edward and James) have been working together at last. Yesterday, they were at an advance screening of *Gulliver's Travels*, their first ever collaboration, which goes out on Channel 4 from this Sunday, and spent the time teasing people who had confused them.

"We do look a lot like each other and people seem to get us mixed up. This film should provide for even more muddle," said James. Edward chipped in with a viewing tip: "I'm the one with the bigger wig," he said proudly of the powdered bouffant he sports.

As was

THE PORTRAIT painter André Durand, whose endeavours on canvas can be as saccharine as Anna Pasternak's prose, has whipped out his pallet again. After his extraordinary portrait of the Prince of Wales and the young Princes William and Harry in baseball caps astride a charger, he has turned his attention to the Queen.

Not, however, Her Majesty as she is today, with occasional wrinkles and slightly greying hair, but as a young woman in the bloom of youth. "I am painting her in her twenties, as a tender and sensual beauty in a purple robe against a red sky surrounded by North American Indians. It is going to be called *White Magic*."

Battle of . . .

MY SUGGESTION that the Editor of the *Evening Standard*, Max Hastings, might care to buy the title Baron Hastings of Hastings (for sale at £25,000-£30,000) has gone down poorly with the 22nd Baron Hastings (title created in 1290). "I shall have to contact my solicitor," he thundered yesterday. "No one else is entitled to call himself Lord Hastings. It's totally fraudulent and I have plenty of heirs to follow me."

Strutt & Parker, who are advertising the sale, stand by the proffered barony. "The whole thing has been fully researched and it is available for sale."

Second look

DENNIS POTTER *aficionados* may care to take notice of Keeley Hawes, a 20-year-old model, who will be making something of a splash as the female star of *Karaoke*. She plays opposite Richard E. Grant in the television mini-series,



Keeley: part work

one of the late playwright's last works, to be screened next month.

She confesses that she is new to stardom. "I play a model who gets a film part because she is having an affair with the director, and it all starts to get a bit seedy," she says. "My biggest part previously was when I was at the National Theatre aged 12. I played a child prostitute."

P·H·S

BOVINE ALARM

British beef eaters face an uncertain future

The announcement by Stephen Dorrell of new evidence suggesting a link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy, "mad cow" disease, and its equivalent in humans, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, is alarming. The Health Secretary admitted to the House that fresh investigations had identified a "previously unrecognised and consistent disease pattern". Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, would be giving doctors the latest scientific advice, he said, announcing a further £4.5 million for urgent research into the illness.

After an orchestrated campaign of reassurance, Mr Dorrell's statement will provoke widespread anxiety about the prevalence and nature of BSE and the efficacy of measures taken so far to prevent the degenerative brain disease vaulting from cows to humans. Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, provoked anger among backbenchers from farming constituencies with her accusation of "too much reassurance and too little action". But she reflected the public mood when she spoke of "fear stoked up by ignorance and innuendo".

The Government has certainly acted honourably in placing these latest findings before the House and admitting that there is cause for concern. Assessing any new disease is extremely difficult. On the one hand, the Government is dependent on information from scientists and epidemiologists, who may have only incomplete evidence and may differ in its interpretation. On the other hand, the Government is expected to give a lead and to balance the interests of public health against those of important sectors such as agriculture and industry, and the country's international links and obligations.

The most difficult balance of all is between fostering complacency and inducing panic. With Aids, the Government has generally struck the right note; with BSE the record is more dismal. Each fresh statement seems to undercut the preceding one. With every attempt to lay out the latest scientific advice and prudent counsel the Government appears to retreat from lofty certainty and make its earlier stance look like culpable insouciance.

The result, predictably, is cynicism and confusion. This latest statement will fuel consumer alarm. Farmers are bracing themselves for a catastrophic fall in beef sales and consumption; exports are likely to suffer and not only in Germany; hospitals, schools and other public canteens may find themselves under increasing pressure to ban beef altogether.

Whether this will cause the Government political damage depends on two questions. How much was the initial attempt to reassure the nation dictated by pressure from Britain's farmers? And how rigorous was the Government in enforcing preventative measures suited to a worst case scenario?

So far there is no clear evidence of a cover-up; indeed yesterday's parliamentary statement came within hours of independent scientific advice suggesting a possible link in CJD victims to exposure to BSE before the offal ban was introduced in 1989. The second question cannot be so reassuringly answered: it took too long before new rules were introduced for abattoirs and proper inspection was enforced. If the Government failed to provide enough officials and vets to police the new rules, it shares in any culpability. John Gummer's publicity stunt of feeding his daughter a hamburger was distasteful at the time and could now be seen as misleading as well.

Ministerial resolution suggests that, short of eliminating Britain's beef herds, as much is being done as possible to combat BSE. The worry is that with such long incubation periods, it will be years before any increase in CJD infection due to BSE is known. The figures so far are very small but the trend is portentous. Britain may face a wave of cases contracted in childhood that only become apparent years from now.

INDIA AT RISK

Political decay compromises economic reforms

The conduct of regular elections makes India unusual in the Asian continent. The country's electorate — numbering over 600 million — will vote for a new administration in April, and should do so in the well-oiled way of the "world's largest democracy". But India's 11th elections, called on Tuesday by P.V.Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, also promise to guide the country into virgin political territory.

The ruling Congress Party, which has been in power almost without interruption since 1947 — the year of India's independence from Britain — cannot be certain this time of retaining its grip on the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament. How will this affect India? Should the world worry if Mr Rao loses his parliamentary majority? Will the country's economic reforms survive, unscathed, a shift in the balance of power? The answers to these questions are not simple ones, and rightly worry observers in India and abroad. No elections in India's half-century of independence have been as difficult to forecast as these will be.

Three broad political groupings — the Congress Party, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) of the Hindu Right, and the National/Left Front — are vying for power and the voters' attention. But if the result is a coalition government (something which has never occurred before in Delhi in any meaningful sense, but which is widely predicted by Indian observers), Mr Rao will have to be a part of any formation.

That should comfort those who believe that India must not abandon its present path of economic reform. Mr Rao and Manmohan Singh, the cerebral Finance Minister, have together extricated India from the Fabian morass into which it had been plunged by decades of *dirigiste* rule. Responsibility for India's previous economic stagnation rests squarely with Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister, and Indira Gandhi, his autocratic daughter. In blind pursuit of a Soviet model of development — marked by hubristic notions of "self-reliance", centralised economic planning and a deep-rooted suspicion of foreign investment — they impoverished India to such an extent that history will surely judge them more harshly than did contemporary accounts of their rule.

A commitment to a free economy is now shared, to varying degrees, by all three major parties. Yet there is more to the making of alliances than a party's attitude to the economy: Right and Left, in sharp disagreement over the issue of India's religious minorities, will never share power. Only the Congress party — a broad temple if ever there was one — has the ideological flexibility to tie a knot of government with either the BJP or the National/Left Front. Whereas an absolute Congress majority would suit the country best, an alliance with the BJP would not be a bad outcome for India. A spell in power in Delhi could have a sobering effect on the latter's strident "Hinduness", while at the same time taking account of the increasingly irrepressible concerns of a section of India's religious majority.

But the most important task for all parties is a regeneration of India's political institutions, as well as faith in the country's politicians. As the country's economy has opened itself to global influences its polity has sunk ever more deeply into decay and corruption. No party can claim to be free from taint; no party can claim that it need not improve itself. Corruption may not lose Mr Rao the next elections, but it has already lost him the voters' respect.

STROKE YOUR RESOURCES

Corporate teamwork is one ideal: to scratch a living is another

To err is human but to forgive with a smile may soon be company policy. Buddhist techniques are being introduced to the City of London by management consultants. Standard Chartered Bank has decided to teach its executives Japanese *kaizen* teamwork and continuous self-appraisal. What other breezes can we expect from the wet wind of change now blowing through the jungle?

Human resources used to be called personnel or people management. A management consultant was somebody who told management what it already knew but packaged it differently. But until now the City has tended to stress the individualist Whittington and Scrooge principles and to discount the damp Andrew Carnegie and John Lewis partnership mirage of teamwork between company workers. Compulsory teamwork and collective empowerment were strictly for the birds — or for those motors for human resources in Japanese manufacturing companies such as Nissan and Toyota.

The new City techniques sound both gung-ho and pi. They offer more than a whiff of American tele-evangelism. One axiom is that every day a manager should do "two acts of random kindness". Most executives, if forced to such measures by a weekend of executive games, will get their acts of random kindness over early in the day. A human resources manager with his arm around a human resource risks being treated like a treasurer with his hand in the till. It is one thing to recommend praising subordinates and smiling more, another to introduce this to those City folk suspicious of any smiles other than Samuel and resentful of praise other than self-praise.

Maxims for subordinate-friendly management include getting rid of Mickey Mouse rules that belittle people. But surely enforcement and complaints about petty rules, such as no-smoking areas or canteen opening hours, provide the most interesting times for office workers. Japanese Happy Hour teamwork meetings offend British reticence, diffidence and dislike of putting oneself forward.

This new Zen Buddhist method of motivating managers may triumph yet. Where Coca-Cola and British Petroleum are experimenting, other would-be corporate evangelism may follow. But the engines of the markets until now have been money and individualism. The spirit of team games, invented by the British, is to play up, play up and play the game without much self-appraisal or confession of sins, let alone a mantra.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Checks on reasons for gun ownership

From the Reverend Michael J. Ward

Sir, As parish minister of a rural community I am often called upon to act as a referee in countersigning firearms applications. The majority of these are made by farmers and gamekeepers whose livelihood requires the use of a weapon for pest control or the shooting of game; in these cases I am happy to oblige, after asking a few questions.

On one particular occasion I did not feel that the applicant was suitable to hold a weapon or that his reasons were entirely legitimate. I therefore refused to countersign his application. But I also knew that he was free to seek other referees who might not share my misgivings. My conscience was clear, but that is of no consequence if an applicant is determined to obtain a licence and is no help to the community in which he lives.

May I suggest that Lord Cullen and those entrusted with reviewing gun legislation (report, March 15) in the aftermath of last week's tragedy consider introducing a firearms application form with a tear-off slip with boxes to be ticked by the referee "suitable" or "unsuitable". The referee would be required by law to remove and complete this after speaking to the applicant (but without disclosing his verdict), and then post it to the police officer in charge of processing applications.

Such a suggestion would not only give referees the opportunity to give unbiased and confidential advice, but it would also prevent potential gun-users taking their applications, intact, around the community until a favourable signature is obtained.

Yours,
M. WARD,
St Madoes Manse, Glencarse, Perth.
March 19.

From Mrs Christine Makin

Sir, Checks on the suitability of people to own and use firearms should be made more frequently than at five-year intervals. Much can happen in five years to alter people's suitability.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE MAKIN,
The Lodge, 103 Fore Street,
Plympton St Maurice,
Plymouth, Devon.
March 14.

From Dr D. F. Severs

Sir, Mr McKelvie (letter, March 15) maintains that "every kitchen, garden shed or garage contains objects and substances that have lethal potential if *malevolently used*".

Which objects or substances in my kitchen, garden shed or garage could be used to kill 17 and injure 14 in a matter of minutes?

Yours faithfully,
D. F. SEVERS,
29 Crestbrooke,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire.
March 15.

From Mr Jerome Gardner

Sir, Your leader "Armour and light" (March 16) supplied some interesting historical information on the Royal Armouries Museum. However, surely there should have been some mention therein — or at least elsewhere in that issue — of the shocking misjudgment on the part of officialdom which resulted in the Queen's unaltered visit to Leeds at a time while national feelings are running so high in the wake of the slaughter at Dunblane.

Yours faithfully,
JEROME GARDNER,
Morticombe, Cherry Bridge,
Barbrook, Lynton, Devon.
March 16.

Nature of evil

From the Chaplain of St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton

Sir, Many people, including my friend and mentor the Bishop of Edinburgh (Credo, March 14), have spoken of "evil" in connection with the Dunblane killer. It seems virtually certain that Thomas Hamilton was severely mentally disordered. Is mental disorder to be equated with evil?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CAMP,
St Andrew's Hospital,
Billing Road, Northampton.
March 14.

From Mr J. H. Rogers

Sir, Senior Churchmen and politicians have spoken of "evil", "brutality" and the need for prayers for the families of the Dunblane victims.

But is this not an abrogation of responsibility by those who should lead public opinion and hold the high moral ground? Surely they must realise that this was an accident caused by a mentally sick man and that this is no time for the language of Salem.

Do not his family deserve their prayers too?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ROGERS,
41 Druidsville Road, Liverpool 18.
March 15.

Business letters, page 29

Sports letters, page 42

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Privatisation of Civil Service agency

Sir, Peter Riddell's article (March 15) about the Government's defeat in the House of Lords over its plan to sell off Recruitment and Assessment Services (RAS), the agency responsible among other things for Civil Service fast-stream selection and recruitment, was welcome and timely, especially in its conclusion that the best course would be to drop the plan altogether.

But it is not right to say that opposition to the Government's proposal in recent months has been confined to "the great and the good from the 1960s and 1970s", as Peter Riddell calls them.

As one of RAS's current panel of assessors (who has gone into print and been otherwise active in opposition to RAS privatisation) and as a retired diplomat, who served as a head of mission in the 1980s and 1990s, I am far from unique among opponents of privatisation in being of rather more recent vintage.

Equally significant has been the extent of opposition to privatisation on the part of those, younger still, who are professionally debarred from expressing their views in public: the serving civil servants who act as departmental assessors in the RAS assessment and recruitment process.

It is widely known that many of these, all exceptionally well placed to make an informed judgment, view the prospect of privatisation with concern and dismay.

One cannot attribute the views of these people, mainly in mid-career, to nostalgia or to the gut conservatism of declining years. Nor are their views coloured by self-interest: assessors, or their departments, could expect to be considerably better rewarded if fees were set at market rates after privatisation.

Yours truly,
BRIAN BARDER,
10 Melrose Road,
Southfields, SW18.
March 17.

From Lord Bancroft

Sir, Mr Peter Riddell's account of the House of Lords debate on March 8 is welcome, instructive and resoundingly right in its conclusions.

It also holds out the agreeable conceit of "an element of the retired Permanent Secretaries' club" operating in the debate. I doubt whether Lords Callaghan, Jenkins of Hillhead, Kennet, Bruce of Donington, McIntosh of Haringey and Baroness Williams of Crosby, or Lords Peyton, Rippon or Marlesford (mentioned in the piece) would thank him for implying that they were members of such a club. They all spoke in the debate, as of course did others not fitting his description.

A glance at the list of the 124 peers who voted for my amendment, and against the Government, shows 117 as non-members of the club. And 13 were Conservatives, of whom five were former ministers. Indeed, with two exceptions, every former minister taking part in the division voted against the Government, irrespective of party. I make that 26 ministers compared with seven Permanent Secretaries.

Whose club?

Yours faithfully,
BANCROFT,
House of Lords.
March 15.

Sale of HMSO

From Mr Stephen Saxby

Sir, The Government's plans to sell off Her Majesty's Stationery Office (report, *The Sunday Times*, February 4; letter, December 28, 1995) and its policy on the administration of Crown copyright (parliamentary written answers to Lord Lester of Herne Hill, *Hansard*, March 13, 1996) are of significant concern to universities.

It is questionable whether the Government's intention to make official information as widely and readily available as possible, taking into account the need to protect the interests of the taxpayer, can be guaranteed without further clarification.

Under present arrangements university libraries have been able to negotiate a price with HMSO for selective subscription to official publications, but since future negotiation on pricing will be with the private-sector purchaser of HMSO, will the Government make any provision for such arrangements to continue?

An increasing volume of official publications will appear in electronic formats. Present charging policy has been to seek a commercial return on information in this form on a quite separate basis to the educational price concessions negotiated for traditional printed formats.

If too much emphasis is placed on treating official information as a tradeable commodity within a controlled commercial market, the broader objective of securing access and use of this valuable resource to improve the competitiveness of the nation will be undermined.

Many governments have prepared public-sector national information infrastructure plans designed to exploit the potential of the Internet. An announcement on February 9 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster that the full text of all new Acts will be published on the Internet is a small but welcome step, but it remains only a concession. Much more use could be made of this resource for the distribution and exploitation of official information if the Government were minded to do so.

Perhaps there is something to be said for the United States approach to *this issue. In 1995 it legislated to prevent* government agencies restricting or regulating the use, resale, or re-dissemination of public information or the levying of user fees that exceed the distribution cost.

Maybe the time has come for the Government to take a closer look at how its information policy is working and to reassess its medium and long-term goals.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN SAXBY,
University of Southampton,
Faculty of Law,
Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ.

Teaching standards

From Mr Michael Paffard

Sir, Mrs Douglas Heyman (letter, March 13) should be reminded that "trendy" is hardly an appropriate insult to throw at a child-centred rather than a subject-centred approach to the education of young children. What she calls "the well tried disciplines of the classroom" worked, after a fashion, for a minority of children, usually from supportive homes. They kept the majority quiet and obedient until they escaped into a life often of manual labour.

Child-centred principles are often only half-heartedly practised in under-resourced schools designed for the sort of formal chalk-and-talk instruction your correspondent approves. We shall find the way forward not by putting the clock back but by properly supporting and improving a trained teaching profession.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PAFFARD,
3 Church Bank, Keele, Staffordshire.
March 14.

From Mr Martyn Beckett

Sir, I find the tone of Mrs Heyman's letter benighted and simplistic. My experience over 18 years in the classroom is that there is often much to be said for dispensing with the format of children sitting in serried ranks of desks.

Tables do not have to be "dotted about". Teachers do more than make "odd visits", and what is wrong with a "cosy chat" by way of offering re-assurance and encouragement?

It is ironic that you published a report on the same day that Britain boasts the longest working week in Europe. We send our children to nurseries earlier and earlier, presumably — by some blind and erroneous logic — to get them ahead in the rat race.

For rats, read chickens. Do we want "battery" at the expense of "free-range"?

A certain amount of freedom undoubtedly helps to develop those qualities which are so valuable in business, industry and other areas of adult life, and I find that sympathy, understanding, flexibility and initiative are most effectively nurtured in a variety of working conditions.

Yours faithfully,
MARTYN BECKETT,
The Cottage,
Yarlet Hall, Stafford.
March 14.

Cherie Blair

From Mr Peter Hitchens

Sir, Nigella Lawson ("Cherie's got them on the run", March 13) misunderstands my interest in Cherie Booth's 1983 campaign for Parliament. I am seeking public documents, recollections of speeches made at open meetings and nothing else.

My investigation has nothing to do with Ms Booth's blameless personal life, nor with some Freudian fear of powerful women, but with a subject which rarely comes up these days: the actual political views and instincts of Labour's elite.

Ms Booth has been a politician in her own right, addressing meetings from Labour Party platforms, and can reasonably be assumed to hold strong convictions. Had her husband not been selected for a safe seat, she might well now grace the Shadow Cabinet while he toiled at the Bar.

Because of this accident of history, she has not had to go through the embarrassing and painful public recantation of the policies on which she once stood for office, and which is so essential for Opposition frontbenchers that the road to Damascus is now badly congested. Maybe she has changed her mind, maybe not. But in any case, it is an important political topic. When an entire party declares that it didn't mean a word of its manifesto and that everything it ever stood for is now so much garbage, the press is entitled to investigate.

If the response of the Labour press to my inquiry — involving personal attacks on me — is anything to go by, I fear for freedom of the press under a Blair government.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HITCHENS,
The Daily Express,
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1.
March 14.

Having a flutter — reality and fantasy

From Mr Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham (Conservative)

Sir, Professor Tim Congdon ("How the lottery robs us", March 15) is of course right that purposely invested savings are a more efficient way to save money than playing the National Lottery. However, he ignores the fact that most adults enjoy the freedom of deciding whether to have a weekly flutter.

The evidence to date shows that playing is spread fairly evenly across social and economic groups. The average household weekly spend on the National Lottery is less than the price of renting a video film. It is also clear where lottery money has been going: over one million prizewinners every week, with 358 jackpot wins so far; and 5,000-plus charities, sports, arts and community groups which, in the first year, have been awarded over £1 billion.

The Prime Minister believes that the lottery can provide the nation with leisure and culture facilities which allow everyone in this country to share in opportunities that were once available only to the privileged few. Such facilities will never have first call on the public purse, but the lottery releases funds to help regenerate our communities, while allowing each of us a fleeting fantasy.

Our National Lottery is highly regulated, and the financial accounts of the distribution of lottery proceeds are subject to annual scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee. Nobody is forced to play, and Government has no role in telling people how to spend their money.

Professor Congdon may have his finger on the pulse of the economy, but he is misinformed about the lottery, and on this issues he is out of step with public opinion.

Yours truly,
TOBY JESSEL (Chairman,
Conservative Parliamentary
Arts and Heritage Committee),
House of Commons.
March 15.

From the Reverend Roger Driver

Sir, Tim Congdon is absolutely right. As someone who lives and works in an urban priority area on the edge of Liverpool, I am aware of how many families are drawn into the false hopes of the lottery.

Many decent people here are struggling to bring up children against the backdrop of social deprivation and real poverty. On very low wages, or unemployed and on social security benefits, they are spending *disproportionate amounts of money week by* week on the minute chance of a big win.

What an indictment of our society. Many families I know are living permanently in a fantasy land that is shattered every Saturday — to be relived the following week.

People of Fazakerley and elsewhere deserve better. They deserve to be able to grasp real opportunities based on achievable hopes for a better life. In my parish I have seen people achieve self-empowerment through simple self-help projects like those financed by the Church Urban Fund (through congregations' donations).

There should be more opportunities of this kind and — as Professor Congdon called for — for advancement through the old virtues of "thrift and hard work".

Yours sincerely,
ROGER DRIVER (Team vicar),
St Paul's, Fazakerley, Merseyside.
March 15.

Raising the tone

From Mr Don Bradbury

Sir, Surely there is an American influence in accounting for the current speech pattern of many young British people ("Soap opera Australian-speak raises the tone", report, March 19). The Australian influence is a modern phenomenon to all but cricket and tennis fans, whereas for many decades, in films and TV shows, we have suffered the American proclivity for a questioning intonation with a rise in voice pitch at the end of a sentence.

I'm no language expert, but I believe our own antipodeans simply copied the Americans, as we do, and the Americans possibly inherited the custom in the first place from their Irish immigrants. But I agree, the habit is likely to imply insecurity, a desire for agreement, and is a self-effacing stance in an uncertain world.

The other possibility is that it simply means "do you know what I'm talking about?", and the habit is slightly preferable to the increasingly used "yes?", or worse still "ya?", after every statement.

Yours faithfully,
DON BRADBURY,
6 Solway Rise, Dronfield Woodhouse,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
March 19.

Spring in the air?

From Mrs Angela Tremayne

Sir, I note the claim by Government experts that spring cleaning is "easier and more enjoyable than other forms of exercise" (report, March 20). Whoever thinks that has clearly never done any.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA TREMAYNE,
1 Old London Road, Milton Common,
Thame, Oxfordshire.
March 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 19: Captain Budhikumar Gurung, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, and Captain Chittrabahadur Rai, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, (The Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers) were received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested them with the Insignia of Members of the Royal Victorian Order.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: His Excellency Mr Ahmed Zaki was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Maldives in London.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen, Patron, Royal Army Ordnance Corps Charitable Trust, received Major General Michael Callan (President) who presented the Annual Report of the Trust to Her Majesty.

Brigadier Michael Owen (Secretary, Royal Army Ordnance Corps Charitable Trust) was also received by The Queen.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr William Fullerton (the Kingdom of Morocco), Mr James McCulloch (the Republic of Iceland) and Mr Peter Smith (the Kingdom of Lesotho).

Mrs Fullerton, Mrs McCulloch and Mrs Smith were also received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, Patron, the Guide Association, this afternoon opened the new Guide Heritage Centre, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, and was received by The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon (President), Mrs Margaret Wright (Chief Commissioner) and Councillor Martin Jiggens (Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster).

The Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of the Governor-General of Canada and Madame LeBlanc to bid Their Excellencies farewell on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Princess Royal, Patron, today attended the Butler Trust Awards ceremony and Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Transaid Board Dinner at the British Railways Board, Euston House, Eversholt Street, London, NW1.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 20: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received the Presidents of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St James's Palace on the occasion of the Guild's Annual General Meeting.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 20: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1, on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Asprey, New Bond Street, London W1, toured the workshops and was entertained to Luncheon by the Chairman.

The Prince of Wales later held a meeting at St James's Palace to discuss the re-use of redundant buildings.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Macmillan Nurse Appeal, this evening attended a Concert in aid of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 20: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Munradtech Industrial Generators Limited, Gelders Hall Road, Loughborough, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Loughborough Sound Images Limited, Ashby Road, Loughborough; and later visited Virtuality Entertainment Limited, Brailsford Industrial Park, Leicester.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the new Ripon By-Pass, Ripon, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley).

Her Royal Highness later opened the Ripon Leisure Centre, Dallamires Lane, Ripon. The Duchess of Kent this afternoon opened the new Headquarters of the North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Ambulance Headquarters, Fairfields, Shipton Road, York; and as Patron, the Choir School's Association, visited York Minster Choir School, Deangate, York.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, Eisenach, Germany, 1685; Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, architect, Dormans-sur-Marne, 1736; Jean Paul Richter, humourist, Wunsiedel, Germany, 1763; Jean Baptiste Fourier, mathematician, Auxerre, France, 1768; Henry Kirke White, poet, Nottingham, 1785; Benito Juarez, President of Mexico 1861-72, San Pablo, Mexico, 1806; Modest Mussorgsky, composer, Karevo, 1835; Albert Chevalier, music hall entertainer, London, 1861; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1865; Florenz Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, Chicago, 1869; Hans Hofmann, painter, Weissenberg, Germany, 1880; Erich Mendelsohn, architect, Allenstein, East Prussia, 1887.

DEATHS: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533-56, burnt at the stake, Oxford, 1556; James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh 1625-56, Reigate, Surrey, 1656; Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford 1686-88, Oxford, 1688; John Law, economist, Venice, 1729; Richard Dawes, scholar, Heworth, Newcastle, 1766; Jean-Baptiste Greuze, painter, Paris, 1805; Robert Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-43, Keswick, 1843; William Scoresby, clergyman and Arctic explorer, Torquay, 1857; Sir Michael Redgrave, actor, Denham, Buckinghamshire, 1985; Leo Fender, pioneer of the electric guitar, Fullerton, California, 1991.

Aneurin Bevan announced government proposals for a National Health Service, 1946.

Dr Kwame Nkrumah was elected the first African Prime Minister south of the Sahara, 1952.

Africans were massacred by police at Sharpeville, South Africa, 1960.

Alcatraz prison closed, 1963.

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

Derek Clifford Nicholls, MA, PhD, University Lecturer in Land Economy, has been elected to a Fellowship in Class A.

Primitive diet advice is hard to swallow

BY JOHN VINCENT

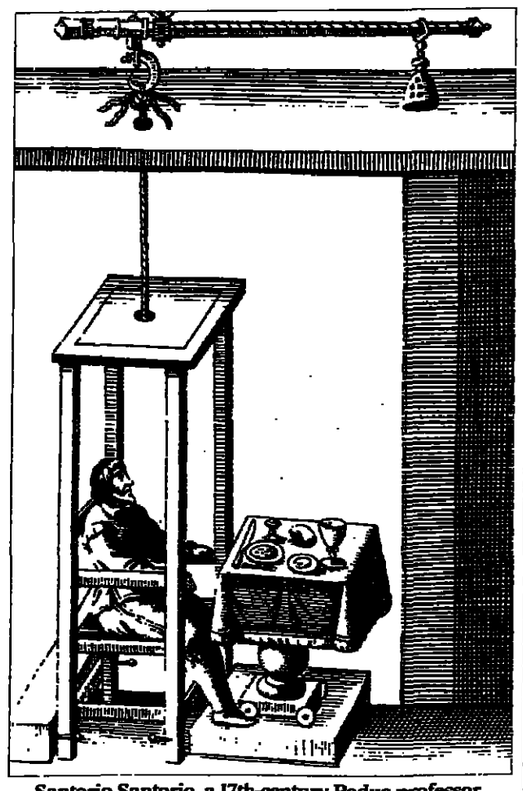
A VAST library contradicting the notion that dieting is a modern obsession is expected to fetch up to £170,000 at a Christie's auction in London tomorrow. More than 1,000 volumes dating back to the 15th century were collected by John Yudkin, an East Ender who became Britain's first professor of nutrition.

Some of the advice might be difficult for a modern dietitian to stomach. Thomas Cogan, in the 1605 book *The Haven of Health*, eschewed the eating of raw pears and apples: "Peares eaten raw make waterish and corrupt bloud, and beside that, they engender wind and so cause the Collicke."

An 1820 treatise on *Adulterations of Food and Culinary Poisons*, by Frederick Accum, exposed the widespread use of potentially lethal additives. They included alum for whitening flour; tea with leaves from hedgerows; pepper adulterated with floor sweepings; and pickles made green with copper.

One of the rarest volumes is a 1475 first edition of possibly the world's first cookery book, by Bartolomeo Platina. The "humanist treatise on the art of good living" is estimated to fetch £3,000-£5,000.

Mr Yudkin, who died last year aged 85, was the son of Orthodox Jewish parents who fled the Russian pogroms of 1905. He became professor of nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College, London University, from 1954 to 1971. The collection is being sold by his son Michael to endow a scholarship.



Santorio Santorio, a 17th-century Padua professor, in a chair recording weight change after eating

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will be the host at a concert and dinner at Buckingham Palace at 7.00 to mark Lord Menuhin's 80th birthday.

The Duke of Kent will also attend.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit a Sense shop at 4 Blackwell Street, Swan Centre, Kidderminster, at 10.10; as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the fund shop at 18 Pump Street, Worcester, at 11.00; and as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Action Apparel, 11/12 Palmers Road, East Moons Moat, Redditch, at 12.10.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will visit the Department of Orthotics, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford, at 11.30.

Stonyhurst College

The Governors of Stonyhurst College, Lancashire, are pleased to announce that Mr Adrian Aylward, currently a Housemaster and a Headmaster's Deputy at Downside School, is to succeed Dr Giles Mercer as Headmaster of Stonyhurst College when Dr Mercer becomes Head of Prior Park College in September 1996.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

W.S. Atkins

The Hon Sir Archibald Hamilton, MP, was the host at a dinner given by Mr Terrel Wyatt, Chairman, and the Directors of W.S. Atkins Limited last night at the House of Commons. Mr John Watts, Minister for Railways and Roads, was the principal speaker.

The guests included:
Mrs Frances Heaton (director, Lazard Brothers), Mr David Young (director of planning and property services, Oxfordshire County Council), Mr Michael Robertshaw (managing director, Ballast Wiltshier Plc), Mr Patrick O'Sullivan (Head of School and Dean of University College, London), Sir Alan Greengross (director, Institution for Meropolitan Studies), Mr Keith Tozzi (group technical director, Southern Water Plc), Mr Terry Kirkpatrick (manager of projects, Tate & Lyle Sugars), Mr Phil Smith (project engineering manager, 3M UK Plc), Mr Timothy Harlshorn (First Vice-President of the Union Bank of Switzerland), Mr Pierre Lacoste (director, International Union of Public Transport), Mr Denis Tunnicliffe (managing director, London Underground Plc), Mr Harry Bourne (project manager, Cheveron Britannia Development), Mr Julian Walford (contracts strategy manager, AEA), Mr Bob Forgan (manager, AWE), Mr Trevor Kent (consultant, Wintershall Oils), Mr Peter Tamplin (director, Racal Managed Defence Group), Mr Neil Dancer (assistant director of transportation, Birmingham City Council), Mr William Wadrup (director, Midland Network Management Division, The Highways Agency), Mr Roger Witcombe (director of planning, National Power Plc), Mr Neil Bryson (chairman, The Electricity Pool of England and Wales), and Mr Michael Jeffries, Mr David James, Mr Barry Hutt, Mr Christopher Binnie, Mr Richard Jarvis, Mr David Slater, Mr Richard French, Mr Norman Schunter, Mr John McDougall, Mr Roger Dexter-Smith, Mr John Doyle, Mr Hugh Roberts, Mr David Clements, Mr Andrew McLeish, Mr Roger Wort, Dr Bruce Dean, and Mr Paul Jowers (Directors of WS Atkins Limited).

Jonkheer John Hugo Loudon

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Jonkheer John Hugo Loudon, KBE, will be held on March 27, 1996, in the Grosvenor Chapel, 24 South Audley Street, London, W1, at noon.

Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard

A service of thanksiving for the life of Lady Michael (Meg) Fitzalan Howard will be held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Wednesday, March 27, at noon.

Eton College

Eton College closed yesterday.

The Newcastle Scholarship has been awarded to P.M-T. Sohmen KS ME and the Newcastle Medallist is S. Krishnan KS.

The Rosebery Exhibition has been awarded to W.J.G. Hayter, the Huxley Prize to J.A.D. Santa Barbara KS, the Keynes Prize to N.P.M. Theopold, the Newcastle Classical Prize to C.C.F. Barker KS and Her Majesty The Queen's Prize for French to J.R. Maltby KS and for German to M.K.A. Roseveare OS.

In the final of the House Football Mr R.D.N. Topham's defeated Mr C.W. Milne's by 14 points to 12. Mr C.W. Milne's won the Athletics Cup.

School opens for the Summer Half on April 17.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.C. Armfield and Miss C.J. Williams

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Harry Armfield, of Canford Cliffs, Dorset, and Claire, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Williams, of Clifford, Herefordshire.

Mr N.M. Brooke and Miss C.F. Nicholson

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr Timothy Sergison-Brooke and the Hon Mrs Sergison-Brooke, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Nicholson.

Comte Antoine de Campou de Grimaldi Régusse and Miss J.J. Bolland

The engagement is announced between Antoine, son of Comte and Comtesse Robert de Campou de Grimaldi Régusse, of Aix-en-Provence, France, and Jocelyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean-Pierre Bolland, of Belgium, and Los Altos, California.

Mr C.J. Dean and Miss A.L. Denebeim

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Dean, of Battersea, London, and Amy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruce Denebeim, of St Francis Wood, San Francisco, USA.

Mr J.A.G. Fawcett and Miss L.S. Grylls

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs John Fawcett, of Aberford, Yorkshire, and Lara, daughter of Sir Michael and Lady Grylls, of Winterborne Zelston, Dorset.

Mr I.C. Hayward and Miss L.J. Michaelson

The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Dr and Mrs John Hayward, of Oxford, and McLean, Virginia, USA, and Lori, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Karl Michaelson, of Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

Mr R.S. Homer and Miss A. Blakeley

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Homer, of Harrogate, and Alexandra, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs J.B. Blakeley, of Ewelme, Oxfordshire.

Mr B.P. Jones and Miss H.A. Olleson

The engagement is announced between Brian, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Jones, of Bicester, and Helen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Edward Olleson, of Dorchester on Thames.

Mr M. Kirkham and Miss J.M.C. Charlesworth

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Sir Graham and Lady Kirkham, of Cantley Hall, Yorkshire, and Julia, daughter of the Rev and Mrs Eric Charlesworth, of Slimbridge Rectory, Gloucestershire.

Mr D. McKee and Miss S.J. Messervy

The engagement is announced between Derek McKee and Sophia Jane Messervy, of Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire.

Dr R.M. Probert and Miss S.M. Kerr

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Probert, of Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, and Susan Margaret, younger daughter of Mrs Grahame S. Kerr, of Biddestone, Wiltshire, and of the late Mr Grahame S. Kerr.

Mr R.W. Sommers and Miss A. Kemp

The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Sommers, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Anna, daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Kemp, of Ditchling, Sussex.

Mr D.W. Vander and Mlle C.M. Piecourt

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Vander, of Farnborough Park, Kent, and Catherine, only daughter of M and Mme J. Piecourt, of Romorantin, Sologne, France.

Mr D.L. Webb and Miss F.J. Page

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Webb, of Trelleck, Monmouth, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Page, of Saxlingham Nethergate, Norfolk.

Birthdays today

Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, 66; Mr Peter Brook, theatrical producer, 71; Dr C.L. Brundin, President, Templeton College, Oxford, 65.

Mr Brian Clough, former football manager, 60; Miss Ann Clwyd, MP, 59; Mr Timothy Dalton, actor, 50; Mr Ieuan Evans, rugby player, 32; Mr Michael Foreman, writer and illustrator, 58.

Mrs Llin Golding, MP, 63; Sir John Hall, former chairman, Cameron Hall Developments, 63; Mr Roger Hammond, actor, 60; Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, MP, 47; Mr Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, 63; Mr Antony Hopkins, composer and conductor, 75; Mr Frederic Horne, former Chief Taxing Master, Supreme Court, 79; Miss Ann Mackay, soprano, 40; Sir Peter Main, former chairman, The Boots Company, 71.

The Earl of Munster, 70; Baroness Nicol, 73; Lord Oaksey, 67; Sir John Palmer, former president, Law Society, 76; Professor J.D. Pickard, consultant neurosurgeon, 50; Sir Brian Shaw, chairman, Port of London Authority, 63; Viscount Soulbury, 81; the Earl of Swinton, 59; Lord Wilson of Langside, QC, 80.

Luncheons

National Sporting Club

Mr Geoffrey Boycott was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Bob Willis, chairman, presided.

Lunchtime Comment Club

Señor Luis M. Esteruelas, Counsellor for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at the Spanish Embassy, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Lunchtime Comment Club held yesterday at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Rudolph W Boam, chairman, presided.

Dinners

Air Force Board

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, were the hosts at a dinner held last night at Admiralty House by the Air Force Board. The guests were:
The High Commissioner for Australia, Lord Freyberg, Sir Denis Thatcher, Sir John Adye, Air Marshal Sir John Harris, Air Marshal P T Squire, Judge Richard Lowry, QC, Mr Frederick Forsyth, Mr Hughie Green and Mr Charles Moore.

Royal College of Anaesthetists

Mr Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, and Mr Gerald Malone, Minister for Health, attended the anniversary dinner of the Royal College of Anaesthetists held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Professor Cedric Prys-Roberts, president, was the host. Lord Kilpatrick of Kincraig and Professor Sir Leslie Turnberg, President of the Royal College of Physicians, were the speakers.

Earlier, Professor Joe Whitwam delivered the Joseph Clover Lecture and the president presented Professor Frank James with the Fellowship by Election.

Justices' Clerks' Society

The Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Mr Justice Brooke and Mrs Justice Bracewell were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Justices' Clerks' Society held last night at the Law Society's Hall. Mr Anthony Heath, president, was the host.

City Women's Network

Mrs Alison Thorne, Chairman of City Women's Network, presided at the Annual Dinner held last night at the Four Seasons Hotel, London. Baroness Blatch was the guest speaker.

Travellers Club

An Anglo-American Dinner was held yesterday evening at The Travellers Club. The guest of honour and speaker was the American Ambassador Mr William J. Crowe Jr.

Marriages

Mr W.J.F. Chance and Mrs P.S. Fowlis

The marriage took place in Durban, South Africa, on March 20, between William John Ferguson Chance and Patricia (Paddy) Stewart Fowlis.

Mr R.N. Chatwin and Miss J.L. Edwards

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 16, at St Michael and All Angels, Sunninghill, of Mr Robin Chatwin and Miss Joanna Edwards.

The bride was attended by Miss Georgina Edwards, Sommer, Rosie and Cheney Chatwin, Emily Fairbank and Emily Frearson. Mr Anthony Fairbank was best man.

The reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Mexico.

Dr G.J. Stivala and Dr D.M. Hughes

The marriage took place on March 20, in New York, between Dr George Stivala, son of Dr and Mrs G.J. Stivala, of New York, and Dr Diane Hughes, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Hughes, of Bournemouth.

Guild of Freemen of the City of London

The following have been installed officers of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London: Master, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan; Senior Warden, Lord Finsberg; Renter Warden, Mr Norman S. Munday; Junior Warden, Mr Terry Nemko; Under Warden, Mr Joseph C.F.B. Byllam-Barnes.

Award

Sir Colin Davis has received the Incorporated Society of Musicians' Distinguished Musician award for 1995.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me; and my present mortal life is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.
Galatians 2 : 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

ADAMSON - On 15th March 1996 at Northampton, to Kay (née Andrews) and Nicholas, a son, Samuel Nicholas.

AGBONSY - On 18th March at the Adventist Hospital, Hong Kong, to Sarah (née Brown) and Andrew, a son, Guy Angus.

CHARLTON - On March 19th, to Emma (née Clely) and Alex, a daughter, Mia Alexandra.

CLARENCE-SMITH - On March 14th 1996, to Bridget and Christopher, a son, William George.

DALE - On 12th March 1996, to Claire (née Stanford) and Derrick, a daughter, Celia Frances.

FALLON - On 16th March, to Erika (née Madden) and Simon, a son, Sebastian Patrick.

GREEN - On March 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Debby and Dale, a son, David Russell, a brother to Daniel.

HAMILTON STUMBER - On March 19th, to Susie (née Southgate-Sayers) and David, a son, Edward John.

HANBURY - On 18th March, to Daphne and Nigel, a daughter.

HARBORD-HAMOND - On 19th March at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Kitty and John, a son.

JAMES - On March 6th, to Yvonne (née Pearce) and David, a beautiful daughter, Chloe Isabel.

JONES/MAILE - Gillian Maile and Norman Jones are proud to announce the birth of their son Kai Rhys Jones at St Mary's Hospital, London, on 12th March. A beloved grandson of Roy, Mary, Bernard and Joan.

MAHBUBANI - On March 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Anuradha (née Mahtani) and Jitin, a beautiful daughter - first grandchild of Chatru and Lavina.

PANGRATIOU - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria (née Martin) and Alex, a beautiful son, Michael Joseph Andrew.

PORSONBY - On Tuesday 19th March, to Amanda (née Colvin) and Rupert, a son, George, a brother to Emily and Eleanor.

ROLLO - On Sunday 17th March, to Annabel and William, a son, Andrew, a brother for Katie and Laura.

BIRTHS

SPICER - Thomas Antony born at The Portland Hospital on Friday 15th March to proud parents Stephen and Jane.

SUNNYGARD - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to J. Charisse Kosoya and John, God's Mother's Day blessing of Jillian Anna, a precious little girl.

THISTLETHWAYTE - On March 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Hugo and Charlotte, a son, Edward Thomas.

TRAFFORD - On 16th March 1996 at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, to Katie (née Davies) and James, a son, Hugo Harrison.

WADSTEIN - On March 19th 1996, to Katherine (née Phillips) and Leonard, a son, Alexander James, a brother for Georgina.

WOODS - On March 16th, to Katie (née Jones) and Timothy, a daughter, Phoebe Eleanor Hamersley, a sister for Alexander.

YOUNG - On March 18th, to Julia (née Bateman) and James, a son, William, a brother for Polly and Flora.

MARRIAGES

VILLIERS:HYSLOP - On Saturday March 16th in Ekaterinburg, Russia, Alex, son of Nancy and the late Roger Villiers of Chichester, Sussex and Anne, daughter of Jim and Violet Hyslop, of Dalbeth, Midlothian.

DEATHS

ARMEDALE - On March 19th, peacefully in hospital, Oliver James Vandeleur Kilson, 4th Baron Airedale aged 80 years. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Ufford, Stamford, Lincolnshire at 12 noon on Wednesday March 27th. Family flowers only. Donations if wished for Staff Funds, House of Lords, to be sent to the Administration Committee Fund.

ANDRESEN - May Grace, March 16th, 1996. Late of Sydney, formerly of Bonza Regis and Surbiton, beloved cousin of Muriel, Maidyhread, Fay, Douglas and David. Aged 91 years. Cremated in Sydney 19th March 1996.

ATTWOOLL - Doffy, of Abbotsbury, on Saturday 16th March at Oxford. Funeral at Oxford Crematorium 1.45pm Friday 22nd March. Flowers may be sent to R.V. Mallet, 124 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford.

DEATHS

BOLLAND - Norman Laurence died suddenly at his home on Monday 18th March. Funeral Service will take place on Friday 29th March at 2 pm at Slough Crematorium. No flowers by request but donations to St Giles Hospice and Salvation Army. Enquiries to H.C. Grinstead Ltd., tel: (01494) 672566.

BOXALL - On Tuesday 19th March 1996 Molly Boxall very peacefully at home. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation private. Service of thanksgiving at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 26th March 1996 at St Nicolas Parish Church, Cranleigh, Surrey. No flowers please but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

CADE - On March 16th Peter John, beloved husband of Betty and much loved brother and uncle. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday March 27th at 11.30 am in Wonersh Parish Church. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund c/o Pimms Funeral Services, Dorset House, High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8RL.

CHAMPION - James Cunliffe suddenly at home in South Africa on March 19th. Beloved husband, father and grandfather and much loved and admired by friends all over the world. C/O Manson, PO Box 1274, Rivonia 2128, Transvaal, South Africa.

COTTON - Rosemary Nyda (née Tramlett) peacefully and suddenly at Greenwich Hospital on March 16th 1996. Beloved wife of Colonel HEM Cotton OBE RE and devoted mother of Joanna, Julian, Tim and Tony and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Mass 12 noon at Our Lady's Blackheath on Thursday March 28th. Family flowers only.

de PASS - Brian Alfred on March 17th in his 94th year peacefully at St Joseph's Hospice, much loved uncle and great-uncle and respected friend of the Brothers and staff at The Charterhouse, London. Funeral on 25th March at 11am at St Mary's Church, Little Hallingbury, nr. Bishops Stortford.

DEATHS

DYER - John Richard peacefully in hospital on March 18th. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, SW1, on March 25th at 2 pm, followed by cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium at 3.45 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Mears & Cotterill, 169 Merton Road, SW18, tel: (0181) 874-7698.

EWART - Valerie, beloved wife of John, devoted mother of Lavinia and grandmother of Rupert and Rebecca, on 19th March in her sleep at Katharine House Hospice, Addlestone. Funeral private. Memorial Service at 12 noon on Friday 29th March at St Peter and St Paul, Kings Sutton. Family flowers only.

FENWICK - Peacefully at Whitby on 3rd March, Fairfax aged 82 years. Husband of the late Sylvia (née Austen). Funeral took place at Aislaby on 11th March.

FLETCHER - Grey Campbell M.C. Dearly loved husband of Hilda, and father of Lynn, Grey and Guy died peacefully at St Thomas' Hospital on March 17th after a short illness. Grateful thanks to hospital staff. Private funeral. No flowers please. Donations in his memory to the Leukaemia Research Fund Tel: 0171-405 0101, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JJ.

HELLABY - On 18th March Marguerite Constance (née Merry) of Seaford, aged 83. Enquiries or donations in her memory to N.S.P.C.C. c/o Cooper & Son, 19 Clinton Place, Seaford, BN25 1NP, tel: (01323) 492665.

HILL-WOOD - Joan Louisa. Beloved mother of David and Anne, died peacefully at home aged 91 on 20th March, 1996. Funeral at Kilpton Church, near Grantham at 2.15 pm on Tuesday 26th March, 1996.

HOPWOOD - Brian on Sunday 17th March 1996 at home, after a short illness borne with great courage. Beloved husband of Angela and dearly loved father of Anna and Emma. Service to be held on Tuesday 26th March 1996 at The Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton at 2.15 pm. Flowers, or donations to The MacMillan Hospice Appeal c/o E. Carter & Son, 20 Marine Drive, Rottingdean, Brighton. Tel: (01273) 303467.

DEATHS

JAMESON - Kenneth on 17th March after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Husband of the painter Norma Jameson, brother of Eileen, father of Susan and Andrew, grandfather of Camilla, Alex and Lucy. You will always live in our hearts. Funeral 4 pm 26th March, St John's Church, Shirley, Croydon. No flowers please, but donations to The Parkinson's Disease Society if you wish.

MACK - Anthony William George (Tony), died suddenly on 17th March 1996. Father of Debbie and Pippa. Funeral Service on Wednesday March 27th at 10.30 am at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Bolton Road, Grove Park, Chiswick, W4. Committal at Mortlake Crematorium 11.30 am.

MARCHANT - Ethel Florence peacefully at home in Streatham, on March 16th. Wife of the late Claude and mother of Hugh and Richard. Cremation at South London Crematorium, Rowan Road, on Tuesday 26th March at 2pm.

MATTISON - Leonard George suddenly and peacefully on 16th March 1996 after 91 very active years. Retired Chairman of J. Mattison Ltd. of London. Much loved father and friend of John and James, grandfather of John, Christopher, Philippa and Catherine and great-grandfather of George and Louis. A remarkable gentleman who will be sadly missed. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Chigwell, Essex, on Tuesday 26th March at 11am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the F.T.B.A. (Furniture Trade Benevolent Fund) c/o Francis and Chris Waters Ltd., 121, High Street, Wanstead, London E11.

MONIC - Kathleen aged 87, peacefully in her sleep at home, 17th March. Cremation Putney Vale Crematorium 11.30 am Monday 25th March. No flowers. Donations to British Lung Foundation and British Lymphoma Research.

ROBERTSON THOMAS - On March 15th 1996 peacefully at home in Coombeinteignhead. Dr. Arthur (Roy) Robinson Thomas MBE FRCS MA aged 91. Much loved husband of Alison Rutter Kerridge and Joan Mayo, father of Susan, grandfather of Charles and Piers and great-grandfather of Alexander and Georgina. Funeral Monday 26th March at Torbay Crematorium, Torbay at 3.30 pm. Friends and family welcome. Simple flowers or donations, if desired to the Maria Curie Cancer Care (Devon Norreah) 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG.

DEATHS

SCUTT - On March 19th 1996 peacefully Elsie Adelina aged 90 years at Wren Park Nursing Home, Shefford. Dearly beloved wife of the late Reverend J. Melville Scutt and much loved mother to Gordon and Heather. Grandmother to Sophie, Rebecca, Oliver, Timothy and Annabel. Funeral on Friday 29th March at Clapham Parish Church, Bedfordshire, 11.30am. No flowers please. Donations if desired to C.M.J. c/o George Squire & Sons, Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5AL.

STEARNS - Betty Vigers on March 19th peacefully at Bemerton Nursing Home, Torquay, aged 93 years. Sister of the late Polly Thorne. "Aunt Betty" will be affectionately remembered by all who knew her. Funeral Service at Torquay Crematorium on Tuesday March 26th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to Barnardo's Homes c/o Torbay and District Funeral Service, 11 Babbacombe Road, Torquay, TQ1 3SB.

SZIGETI - On March 17th 1996 at the Lyndon Hill Clinic, Kiln Green, nr. Reading, Professor of Physics, 86th Szigeti, aged 83 years, formerly of Bristol, Liverpool and Reading Universities. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium on Thursday, March 28th at 2.30 pm. If desired donations for 'Macmillan Nurses' may be sent to A.E. Walker & Son Ltd., 56 Eldon Road, Reading, RG1 4DA.

THOMAS - Howard Reginald aged 96, peacefully on March 16th. Former Headmaster of Wychwood School, Bournemouth. Husband of the late Dorothy, loved and respected by his six daughters, sons-in-law and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. An extraordinary and brilliant man who always lived by his ideals. Funeral Service at Poole Crematorium on Thursday 28th March at 12 noon. Flowers or donations, if desired, to St Augustine's Restoration Appeal may be sent to Anthony Ives Funeral Service, 568 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH14 0AG tel: 01202 716800.

TYLER - Indira, DeBoissiere ("de B"), formerly of Imperial Airways on 16th March in Brockville, Ontario, Canada. Will be sadly missed by husband Peter, family and friends around the world.

DEATHS

ULYATT - On 16th March at home, Kenneth Walter, M.Sc. Ph.D. Dearest husband of Frances Margaret, father of Charles, James and Stella, grandfather of James, Sophie, Carla, Louisa and Gethyn. Requiem on Friday 22nd March at 11.30 am at St Michael's Church, Tetbury. Family flowers only. Donations to Tetbury Hospital c/o L.E. Perry, Hampton Street, Tetbury.

WHITE - Monica (née Sweeney) beloved wife of the late Denis White, passed away quietly at Douglas House, Victoria, British Columbia, on the evening of March 13, 1996 on the eve of her 90th birthday. Singer at the Carl Rosa Opera Company and at the Royal Covent Garden, she immigrated to Canada in 1948 and lived in Toronto and Montreal. Since 1963 she had lived in Victoria where she had many friends, particularly at the Uplands Golf Club and with Victoria Rotary. She leaves her son Michael, daughter-in-law Shan, grandchildren Cam and Jennifer of Toronto, Tony and Frances White of Victoria, family and friends in England. A requiem Mass will be held, Tuesday, March 19, 12:10 pm. at St. Patrick's Church, 2057 Carrick Street, Victoria. Mrs. White will rest at McCall's Funeral Home, 1400 Vancouver Street, Victoria. V8V 3W3 on Monday, March 18 afternoon. McCall's of Victoria. 1-604-385-4466.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BOWES - There will be a Memorial Evensong sung by The Minstrels, Organist Colin Wright, to celebrate the life of Arthur William (Bill) Bowes (8th December 1919 to 26th October 1996) on Thursday 11th April 1996 at 3.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Kirk Ella (near Hull), East Yorkshire.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

WALKER - Gillian Mary (née Badrock) 4th June 1954 - 21st March 1992. R.I.P.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

TEVON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of The Hon. Aylmer Tryon will be held at The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday 11th April 1996 at noon. Those wishing to attend should apply for tickets and a car pass, if required to: The Regimental Adjutant, Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ, by 29th March 1996. Tickets will be issued after that date.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

BROWN:BRIGHT - Congratulations to Josephine and David on their Ruby Anniversary, married March 21st 1946, with love from their sons Nicholas and Richard.

LEGAL NOTICES

941 SECURITIES LIMITED
VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
Company number: 2134021
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF 941 SECURITIES LIMITED
On 18 March 1996 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Lomas, Lomas & Wilson Wakeham was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the company to the liquidator, at No.1 London Bridge London SE1 9QL by 18th April 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated 18 March 1996.
A V Lomas, Liquidator.
Authorised for insertion by The London Gazette.
CN Dinsdale,
Chartered Accountant.

Notice of the Appointment of Administrative Receiver
Name of Company: P & J Marketing Limited. Number of Company: 1696205. Former Name of Company: N/A. Trading names of Company in last 12 months: N/A. Trading names of Company in last 12 months: N/A. Full name(s) of administrative receiver(s): SIMON HANCOCK FN SPRATT. Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE, 10 BRICKET ROAD, ST ALBANS, HERTS, AL1 3JD. Date of Appointment: 18 March 1996. Appointor: Lloyds Bank plc. Nature and date of instrument conferring power to appoint: Debenture dated 1 October 1993. Short description of assets of the company (if any): none None. Signed: Mr. Hancock, Joint Administrative Receiver.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF BEST POWDER COATINGS LIMITED
AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, held on 7 March 1996, I, Melvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter, Liquidator.
Dated this 14 March 1996.

No. 00923 of 1996
I

ARIES

GEORGE BANKOFF

George Bankoff, author and Harley Street surgeon, died on March 15 aged 94. He was born on October 15, 1901.



NUMEROUS medical men have succeeded in combining their professional practice with the writing of plays, poems and novels, but few have exhibited the fecundity and versatility of George Bankoff. The Harley Street surgeon who wrote treatises on general and plastic surgery was unknown to the public which followed George Sava and George Borodin — the names under which he published his popular books. The majority of his works were of an autobiographical or fictional nature, and in a large number the two ingredients were inextricably woven together. For, in Bankoff's case, the story of his own life and adventures was sufficiently remarkable to provide him with an inexhaustible source of material.

Bankoff was a talented linguist — he spoke eight languages fluently — but he never quite lost the accent of his homeland, Russia. Nor did he lose much of his exuberant Russian character. He was born Georgi Alexei Bankoff, in Samokov in Bulgaria, the son of Colonel Ivan Alexandrovitch Bankoff and Countess Maria Ignatiev. His father was a Bulgarian who was serving in the Russian Imperial Army, and the young Georgi was fostered when he was five years old by his mother's brother, General Alexis Ignatiev, who brought him up in Russia.

He attended school there and in 1913 entered the Russian Imperial Royal Academy. He was a cadet at the Naval Academy at Kronshtadt when the Revolution broke out. Afterwards he settled on medicine as a career, studying in various schools at Sofia, Florence, Rome, Munich, Berlin and Bonn. In 1929 he graduated with doctorates of medicine and surgery from Florence, gaining the highest honours that year.

In 1931 he took a second MD degree at Erlangen, and while working in Germany he also obtained the higher surgical diploma and the diploma in tuberculosis. He refused to have anything to do with the Nazis when they came to power and in 1934 fled to England.

He was entitled to practise in Britain by virtue of his Italian qualifications but after suffering some deprecating comments on these from British colleagues, he threw himself into further study at Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh. However, he now found himself among the first wave of political exiles and refugees from the Continent. He had to compete with many highly qualified medical men, some of international fame, and the young polyglot surgeon found that he had a hard road to tread.

Nothing daunted him and after many trials and vicissitudes he succeeded in obtaining hospital appointments and in establishing himself as a consultant in Harley Street in the latter half of the 1930s. He was appointed surgeon to the Italian Hospital in Queen Square, London, and he was also for a time an assistant in the Plastic Surgery Department of St James's Hospital. In 1940 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and in 1942 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

It was during the war, when he worked as a surgeon in the Emergency Medical Service, that he became interested in the new science of plastic surgery. He worked in very much the same field as Sir Archibald McIndoe (although not with him), rebuilding the faces and bodies of injured servicemen. Plastic surgery remained thereafter his chief medical interest.

His professional writings included manuals on *Plastic Surgery* (1943), *Operative Surgery* (1946) and *The Practice of Local Anaesthesia* (3rd edition, 1948). He also wrote more or less "popular" books on surgery, plastic surgery, cancer, tuberculosis and penicillin. He visited America and acted as associate professor of surgery at various hospitals and medical schools.

In the early 1950s he was invited back to the University of Rome, where he became their first Professor of Plastic Surgery. Amazingly, he managed to maintain three plastic surgery practices across the world — in Rome, in Harley Street and in America (first in Washington, later in Los Angeles). He was still practising privately well into his seventies, but had left Harley Street by the early 1970s. He continued to divide his time thereafter between these three countries.

Bankoff did not like to work within fixed government parameters, and while he did not actually disagree with the introduction of the National Health Service in Britain, he did not have much to do with it. He ran, instead, his own version of democratic healthcare. Those who could afford to pay handsomely did, but those who could not, gave what they could — which might mean as little as an invitation to dinner.

Bankoff had taken to his pen for support during the difficult days of the late 1930s when he had been struggling to establish himself as a consulting surgeon in London. The stream of books which were to make him the Simenon of the medical world was inaugurated in 1937 with a volume entitled *The Healing Knife*. This is the most straightforwardly autobiographical of his books; subsequent volumes which appeared at the rate of three or four a year contained a much larger mixture of fiction and presented the author in an amazing series of adventures.

These included *Beauty from the Surgeon's Knife*, *A Surgeon's Destiny*, *A Ring at the Door*, *The Knife Heals Again*, and *The Way of a Surgeon*. In these books Bankoff's surgeon protagonist was never daunted and never at a loss. Coolly and with supreme confidence he faced every difficulty and emergency, from the total reconstruction of an ugly face to the removal of an inflamed appendix with a penknife by the light of a candle.

In a further series of books, Bankoff drew upon his own experiences of Russia and of many strange parts of the Middle East — for example *Russia Triumphant*, *A Tale of Ten Cities*, *Valley of Forgotten People*, *The Chetniks* and *Rasputin Speaks*. *Invitation to Ballet* was about the ballet (another passion), while *Link of Two Hearts* was an epistolary novel about an imaginary daughter who is living through the Blitz. *Gissy* and *Call it Life* were more or less straightforward novels, with of course, the usual medical background. Bankoff had a wonderful command of the English language and he knew how to tell a story. There have been many exponents of the *Healing Knife* type of book, but it is doubtful whether any of them have excelled George Sava.

Bankoff married in 1939 Jannette Hollingdale, by whom he had two sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him.

BARRY APPLEBY

Barry Appleby, cartoonist, died on March 11 aged 86. He was born on August 30, 1909.



THE GAMBOLS, Barry Appleby's strip cartoon, appeared every day in the *Daily Express* for 46 years. It became one of the staples of what the proprietor, Lord Beaverbrook, modestly described as the world's greatest newspaper.

In fact, the Gambols were well known far beyond Britain. Appleby wisely kept the syndication rights for himself and they brought him a great deal of money. If he sometimes wondered why his amiable portrait of a middle-class couple in the Home Counties appealed to readers in the Far East and small-town America, he did not allow this to worry him. He knew it provided a standard of living which enabled him to buy a new Rolls-Royce every other year.

Barry Appleby, born and educated initially in the West Midlands, was brought by his journalist father to live in Kingston upon Thames while he was still a teenager. There, in surroundings which might have been borrowed from a later Gambols cartoon, he met his future wife Doris, always known as Dobs. She became the most important influence in starting his career and throughout the rest of his life.

He decided to follow his father's profession, working first as a freelance contributor to boys' papers and trade magazines, and later as a sports sub-editor on the *Daily Express*. He had been a promising schoolboy artist and he was soon contributing pocket cartoons to his paper's sports pages. Then, in 1950, Appleby and his wife conceived the idea of the Gambols. It was a joint creation and difficult to decide which Appleby was mainly responsible for the concept. Later they agreed to share the honours.

Arthur Christiansen, the Editor of the *Express* who had seen it become the first daily paper to reach a circulation of four million, immediately recognised the potential of the Gambols. Many *Express* readers identified with the couple — middle-class, middle-minded, with a reasonable disposable income despite occasional money worries and devoted to well-intentioned but ultimately disastrous do-it-yourself carpentry. It was a profile which *Daily Express* advertisers also appreciated.

The Gambols' success coincided with a high tide of the paper's success when it reached its record circulation of 4¼ million under Christiansen's successor, Edward (now Sir Edward) Pickering. Other traditional *Express* features and famous by-lines were discarded by future editors as the paper's circulation fell. But the Gambols continued, even though they were demoted — much to Appleby's irritation — from a prime position on the back page to a slot inside the paper.

Gaye Gambol, the zany female character, was supposedly modelled on Dobs Appleby. It is true there were slight resemblances. In most respects, however, Dobs was the opposite of Gaye. She was hard-headed, a brilliant manager of her husband's finances and herself a substantial contributor to the strip cartoon.

Husband and wife shared ideas for the gags, and the strip cartoon was usually drawn with the two sitting and working opposite each other. Barry did the main drawing work while Dobs supplied some of the background and was responsible for all the feminine aspects. On occasions when Appleby was not available she is believed to have drawn the entire strip herself.

Together they provided a vision of Britain which never varied. It was as if time had been frozen in Kingston upon Thames from the moment the Gambols were created at the beginning of the 1950s. There was no violence in their lives, no social stress and sex was something which took place out of sight. The Gambols always occupied single beds.

Eventually Dobs and Barry Appleby moved from Kingston, first to a house near Dorking and then to Castle Cary in Somerset. Dobs died in 1985 but Barry continued drawing until he suffered a stroke last month. He died five days before he would have celebrated the 46th anniversary of the first Gambols cartoon appearing in the *Daily Express*.

Barry and Dobs Appleby had no children.

OLGA RUDGE

Olga Rudge, violinist and mistress of Ezra Pound, died on March 15 aged 100. She was born on April 13, 1895.

OLGA RUDGE was the mistress of Ezra Pound for fifty years, and his sole companion during the last decade of his life. She was not a mistress in the conventional sense: she was never supported by him, not just because Pound had no money, but because she was too competent and independent to need help. Besides being a talented professional violinist, she turned her hand to numerous projects to augment their domestic finances, and she had a second career as a musicologist, being largely responsible for the rediscovery, in the late 1930s, of the then not so fashionable Vivaldi. To scholars of Pound, however, Olga Rudge's importance lies in the unusually liberated nature of her relationship with the poet and with his long-suffering wife Dorothy.

Olga Rudge had her own career as a promising concert violinist when she first met Pound — she in her early twenties, he ten years older. She was born in Youngstown, Ohio, of Irish Catholic descent. Her mother was musical and loved Europe, keeping an apartment in Paris. Olga was sent on her first trip to Europe at the age of seven months, and was educated in France and England. She spoke with such a British accent as an adult that Ford Madox Ford, when he met her, could not believe that she hailed originally from the United States.

Olga began her violinist's career by giving concerts in London and in Paris, and it was at one of her concerts in London that she first caught the attention of Pound, sitting in the audience. They met properly in Paris the following year, when Olga, spotting Pound from a distance, asked "who that handsome bearded man was, in the velvet jacket and the unusual bespoke shirt". Pound laughed when they were properly introduced because, as he explained, he had already written two reviews of her violin playing, one good the other bad. Fortunately, she had not read the bad one.

Pound admired the young woman not only for her beauty and her vitality — she was an uninhibited talker — but for the enthusiasm with which she would listen to his own convoluted philosophical musings, at that time being incorporated into the Cantos. He had then been married for five years to Dorothy, daughter of Olivia Shakespear (Yeats's friend). But Pound, like many writers of his generation, had a lax approach to marriage and fidelity, and began a very public liaison with Olga almost immediately. In 1925 she bore him his first child, Mary.

To avoid scandal the child was born at Bressanone in the Italian South Tyrol, and raised secretly by peasants. But Pound did not completely abandon his wife, and she bore him a son, Omar, the following year. There followed a reasonably amicable *ménage à trois*, with the three living between Paris and Italy, Pound dividing his time between the two women. Olga and Pound lived modestly in a house in Venice, which she had persuaded her father to buy (fortunately before he lost all his money in the Wall Street crash). Olga's life was from this point almost entirely subordinated to the demands of living with Pound, and her career as a performer never really recovered.

Instead, she taught in a conservatory in Siena, and in 1936 began her championing of Vivaldi, after she had unearthed 25 volumes of his music which had not been heard for centuries, in Turin. She formed a Vivaldi Society in Venice, and became involved in the promotion of this then seldom-played composer in numerous ways. In 1939 she published a comprehensive catalogue of his works.

Olga met Mussolini, whom Pound greatly admired, in 1928. She accompanied an American friend who was giving the Duce violin lessons, and noted that he "played well for an amateur". During the war, Olga Rudge stayed on in Italy, teaching at a state school in Rapallo, even though American nationals had been ordered home. Dorothy came to live with her, and the hitherto relatively cordial relationship between the two was put under immense strain. Pound was trapped between two women, neither of whom, he wryly observed, could cook.

After his infamous broadcasts in support of the Fascists from Rome, Pound was seized in 1945 by Italian partisans who handed him over to the Americans. He was then sent home. To Olga it was a great disappointment that he never stood trial for treason. He would, she argued, almost certainly have been more swiftly released by the ensuing public outcry. Instead he was declared insane and incarcerated in St Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, for the next 12 years.



Olga did not have the money to visit him more than once. She remained in Italy, bombarded by numerous letters from Pound, and worked to clear his name. In 1948 she published drafts of some of his wartime broadcasts under the heading *If This Be Treason?* Her selection — which included talks on Henry James's use of the parenthesis — was one-sided, intended to stress the innocuous, literary content of Pound's broadcasts, and neatly avoided dealing with his more blatant anti-Semitic rantings.

When Pound was released from St Elizabeth's in 1958, he walked out on the arms of four women: Dorothy, Olga, Mary (his daughter) and a woman called Marcella Spann, to whom he later proposed. Dorothy, however, would not hear of a divorce and she remained his legal wife. He returned to an uneasy truce, dividing time between Dorothy and Olga at first. But by 1962 he had settled permanently with his beloved Olga, and he remained with her until his death in 1972 at the age of 87 (Dorothy died the following year). Local shopkeepers in Venice referred to Olga thereafter as "the poet's widow".

Their routine during those last ten years was happy and domesticated. They would eat lunch outdoors in sunny weather, and stroll along the Grand Canal in the afternoon. Hordes of Pound "scholars" — many of whom, Olga quickly divined, had never read his work — would visit their home from curiosity. She protected him from these callers with the same crisp efficiency that she later repulsed bogus biographers: "They ring my bell and announce they are writing books that 'will tell both sides'. Both sides! What do they think we are? Ezra Pound is no pancake."

Olga Rudge spent the last two decades alone, sorting through Pound's papers, and helping with genuine research inquiries. Finally she lived with her daughter — by whom she is survived, and who through marriage had become Princess Mary de Rachewiltz — at her daughter's castle near Merano in northern Italy.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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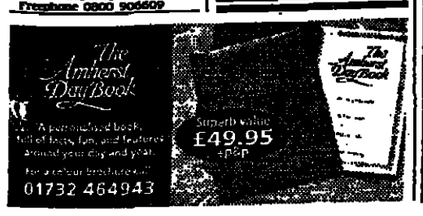
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PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner. Ring 01382 715909.

WANTED

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, furs, patchwork, quilts, embroideries, paisley shawls etc wanted 0171 229 9618.

GIFTS



WINTER SPORTS

CHALET Bargains in our French, Austrian/Swiss resorts. Ski Total 0181 9466222 Abta/Atol

WEEKEND Skiing. Depart any day for any number of days. White Roc Ski 0171 792 1188

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

AFRICA east side - Jo'burg, Harare, Nairobi, Dar, Entebbe, Lagos and more. Booking now for Summer/Xmas. Cranton Travel 0181 426 8444. IATA/ATOL 3548. Access/Visa

BARGAIN Winter Sun/Ski holidays and flights. Pan World ABTA/ATOL 0171 734 2662.

CHEAP as Per more flights see travel section, page 40.

GERMANY Daily low cost flights, 0181 429 2900, Visa/Access, ABTA 90685, ATOL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTRY HOUSES Association has apartments for retired people. For information write to CHA (L90), Freepost, London, WC2B 6BR.

JUPITER : a shop north of Lustleigh ?

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Donations to:
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(Reg Charity No 258788).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

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The National Children's Bureau is creating and maintaining high standards in children's services, benefiting children all over the country.
But such important work needs money.
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Contact Karen England on 071-278 9441 for information.
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU (Charity No. 258825)
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Kidney Research Saves Lives
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Registered Charity No. 252857

ANNOUNCEMENTS

How near we are to the cure... ...depends on you.
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Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Bentley House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL Tel: 081-543 6333

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CHURCH HOUSING TRUST
Sutherland House, 70-78 West Hendon Broadway, London NW9 7BT

Good Health in Old Age
Help us to deliver the greatest gift of all
Every donation or legacy makes a difference
RESEARCH INTO AGEING
Improving the Quality of later Life
DEPT TE, FREEPOST, LONDON EC2B 2AD
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MR BRENDAN BEHAN
THE QUARE FELLOW

Mr Brendan Behan, the Irish writer, who died at Meath Hospital, Dublin, last night at the age of 41, had lived long enough to see at least one of his plays and, unofficially, himself taken to its heart by the United Kingdom, where he had once undergone eight years of Borstal training for terrorist activity on behalf of the IRA.

Not that he settled here. He would appear in England, and as suddenly leave again; and while he was here Behan frequented, apart from the company presenting his own plays, crowds rather than individuals. It seems to have been a passion with him to be like his fellows and to do as they did; and he could gratify this most readily by mingling with them wherever they habitually foregathered to drink, gossip, play darts, and drink again. To have the reputation of a drinker meant as Behan saw it, to be accepted as a man like others, only more so.

One of the three sons of Mr Stephen Behan, a housepainter in Dublin, he was born on February 9, 1923. According to the statement that he, at the age of 16, made at CID headquarters in Lime Street, Liverpool, after his arrest during the Second World War, he had come over to fight for the Irish Workers' and Small Farmers' Republic for a full and free life for his countrymen, North and South, and for the removal of British Imperialism from Irish affairs. Too young to be imprisoned, he was sentenced to Borstal training.

An Expulsion Order being made against him eight years later, Behan returned to Dublin and published in 1958 a long chapter of autobiography under the title *Borstal Boy*. He showed in this how he had preserved his self-respect by continuing to mock at authority. The only animosity in the book is against stupidity, and even this was converted to tolerance as he found that, unperceived by anyone but himself, stupidity could be scored off, provided he kept his temper.

Borstal Boy — it was banned in the Republic of Ireland and in Australia — was an anti-heroic book, and *The Quare Fellow* and *The Hostage* were anti-heroic plays. Both reached Miss Joan Littlewood at Theatre Royal, Stratford, in a much shorter form than that in which they were eventually produced there and later transferred to the West End. *The Quare Fellow*, a study of life in a prison on the eve of a hanging . . . has been played in west Berlin, by Miss Littlewood's company at the Drama Festival in Paris in 1959, and on television, and a film made of it was shown here in 1962. Its successor *The Hostage* — the man in question being a Cockney soldier kidnapped and held in a Dublin brothel — established itself as a smash hit in the West End on its arrival there in the summer of 1959. The public, having learnt to look at life through Behan's eyes and to listen to it speaking with his voice, found the experience exciting. Things seemd to be not merely turned upside down by him, but made mellower. It was as though at curtain fall his characters shook hands, like two teams at the end of a football match, laughed, and went off to enjoy the evening together . . .

ON THIS DAY
March 21, 1964

Brendan Behan, sent to Borstal for IRA terrorist activity, made full use of the experience in his book Borstal Boy *and in his plays* The Quare Fellow *and the West End hit* The Hostage

NEWS

Humans can get mad cow disease

■ The Government admitted for the first time that mad cow disease could be transmitted to humans.

And as ministers demanded expert guidance by the weekend on whether children can safely eat beef, its chief adviser gave a warning that a newly discovered strain of the human form of the disease could even develop into an epidemic..... **Page 1,2,3**

Howard cracks down on burglars

■ Persistent burglars face a minimum of three years in prison and repeat drug dealers at least six years under tough sentencing plans being being proposed by Michael Howard. The Home Secretary will also end the practice by which the length of time a prisoner spends on remand is automatically included as part of a jail sentence, giving the judiciary discretion in the matter..... **Page 1**

Wedding lines

The platform announcement came fifty years too late for the couple from *Brief Encounter*, but a British railway station plans to conduct weddings..... **Page 1**

Landed by Disney

Two little-known British animators whose sole original work is a 90-second film have signed a multimillion-pound feature film deal with Disney..... **Page 13**

INLA infighting

Leading members of the Irish National Liberation Army in Belfast have gone to ground as the terrorist organisation tears itself apart in a feud that has claimed three lives this year..... **Page 4**

Taiwan gets US arms

America, in a further reminder to the Chinese of its military influence, agreed to sell mobile Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other defensive weapons to Taiwan..... **Page 14**

Whitehall cuts

Civil Service staff cuts were blamed by the parliamentary ombudsman for a record number of complaints against government departments..... **Page 4**

Threat to coalition

If the vote for Germany's Free Democrats collapes this Sunday, the Bonn coalition with the Christian Democrats will be in serious trouble..... **Page 15**

Briton murdered

A British businessman, David Swindells, has been murdered by thieves in Shenzhen, the increasingly lawless Chinese city on the border with Hong Kong.. **Page 5**

TB 'to kill millions'

A drug-resistant form of tuberculosis is poised to kill tens of millions of people, says the World Health Organisation..... **Page 16**

Teachers' grades

Poor performance in two lessons will be enough to classify teachers as incompetent under inspection guidelines to help to rid schools of 15,000 bad staff..... **Page 6**

Victim tapes death

An American woman abducted at gunpoint switched on a tape recorder in her handbag and record the last minutes of her life, providing police with a record of the gunman's voice and personal details..... **Page 16**

Landlord crackdown

Landlords should be forced by law to keep rented properties fit for human habitation, according to the Law Commission. More than a fifth of private rented accommodation in England is not fit to live in..... **Page 10**

Mandela challenge

Winnie Mandela said she would challenge a court order granting President Mandela a divorce, hours after he offered a her an out-of-court financial settlement..... **Page 17**

Brothers in Charltons' boots

■ A great English football tradition was revived by Terry Venables, the England coach, when he named Gary and Philip Neville, the Manchester United defenders, in his squad. If they play against Bulgaria in next Wednesday's friendly, they will be the twentieth pair of brothers to win England caps — and the first to do so since Bobby and Jack Charlton..... **Page 1**



MATT KRYGER

Political rivals exchange views after casting their votes in Huntley, northwest of Chicago, during the Illinois Primary. **Page 16**

BUSINESS

British Telecom: New proposals from Oftel, the telecommunications regulator, will ensure that BT customers will see their phone bills fall in real terms..... **Page 25**

Polly Peck: The jury in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth retired to consider their verdicts. She denies handling nearly £400,000 allegedly stolen by Asil Nadir from Polly Peck International..... **Page 25**

Economy: Retail sales increased by 0.6 per cent in February, reversing January's fall, according to the Central Statistical Office... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 7.6 to 3,685.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index climbed from 83.7 to 84.0 after a rise from $1.5323 to $1.5363 and from DM2.2620 to DM2.2696..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: England have turned to youth for the match against Bulgaria at Wembley next week, selecting Robbie Fowler, 20, and the Neville brothers, Gary, 21, and Philip, 19..... **Pages 45, 48**

Rugby league: Two days before the Australian Rugby League premiership kicks off, hopes rose for a ceasefire in the acrimonious battle with Super League..... **Page 45**

Athletics: After shutting herself away for 18 months, Diane Modahl is not only talking to the world, she is thinking of competing against it again..... **Page 42**

Golf: David Feherty has overcome a long series of problems on and off the course to make a welcome return to form on the PGA European Tour..... **Page 46**

ARTS

New Films: *Toy Story*'s stars may come from a computer but the emotions are definitely human, says Geoff Brown of the week's top cinema release. While Vietnam's urban nightmare is pretentiously treated in *Cyclo*..... **Page 35**

Young at Art: How a top London youth orchestra — Ealing Youth Orchestra — is putting on Puccini's *Tosca*..... **Page 36**

Trouble in Wales: The high-voltage imagination of the Welsh dramatist Edward Thomas is on display in his play, *Song from a Forgotten City*, now on at the Donmar Warehouse in London..... **Page 37**

Moving house: English National Ballet has a deal with the Coliseum that will see the theatre become its London home..... **Page 37**

FEATURES

Dishing the dirt: Eleanor Lambert, New York's *grand dame* of "best dressed" lists, is in danger of being knocked off her perch..... **Page 19**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on ever-better pacemakers, wine versus salmonella, steroids' effects... **Page 18**

Little frosties: Two books aim to tell children and parents how babies are born — when they are conceived through the test-tube method..... **Page 18**

BOOKS

Revealing stories: Joanna Pitman on Japan's imperial love, an Inferno for our times; Peter Ackroyd on Cromwell, protector enthroned in ermine; and others..... **Pages 38,39**

TRAVEL

Catching a cold: A bad winter and competition from Eurotunnel have given cross-channel ferry operators a pasting. Now Eurostar plans a new range of services..... **Pages 41**

Floating magic: Disney launches its own cruise liners within two years..... **Page 41**

THE PAPERS

In making immigration an issue for the forthcoming elections in Germany, Oskar Lafontaine is risking an own goal. Every time immigration has become an electoral issue in Europe it has been the Right which has gained the greatest advance — La Repubblica



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **STRAITS MAN**
On the pop page: David Sinclair on *Golden Heart*, the first solo album by Mark Knopfler, left

■ **EDUCATION**
The National Union of Students as a nursery for new Labour

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Joy Adamson of *Born Free* is reassessed in *Reputations* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on an unrevealing journey into the sewer..... **Page 47**

OPINION

Bovine alarm

With every attempt to lay out the latest scientific advice and prudent counsel the Government appears to retreat from lofty certainty and make its earlier stance look like culpable insouciance..... **Page 21**

India at risk

Corruption may not lose Mr Rao the elections, but it has lost him the voters' respect..... **Page 21**

Stroke your resources

To err is human but to forgive with a smile may soon be company policy..... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Parliament is not working well. That is not only the view of the public in polls and of many wiser MPs in private, but also of two eminent judges — Lord Nolan and Sir Richard Scott..... **Page 9**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Pope has been the perfect friend for me. I have shared the affection for many of the things he loved: the English language, the English landscape, the English country house, the Catholic Church, the zest of public controversy, the idea of a moral universal, the loyalty of friends, the conversation of women, an awareness of the absurd, the greatness of Shakespeare and the classics, and the company of books..... **Page 20**

JOHN BRYANT

There are times when you should beware of sport. It can take over your life. Like birds, the obsessives migrate to escape the bitterness of the British climate — and head for the warm-weather training camp..... **Page 45**

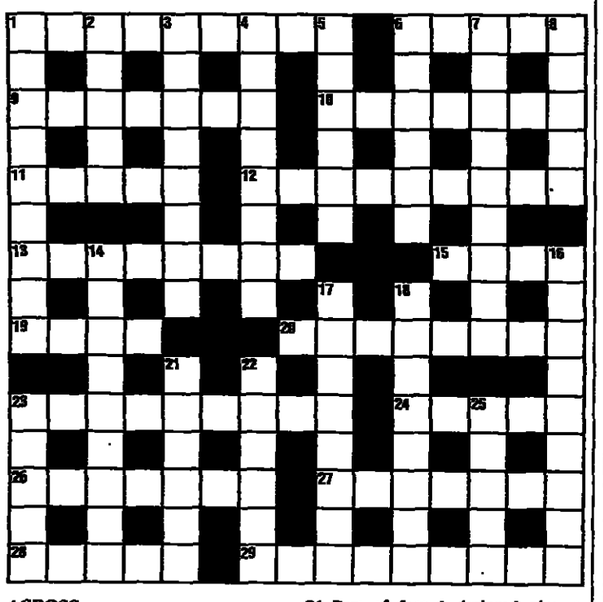
OBITUARIES

George Bankoff, auther and surgeon; **Barry Appleby**, cartoonist; **Olga Rudge**, violinist and mistress of Ezra Pound..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Privatisation of Civil Service agency; lottery winners and losers; checks on reasons for gun ownership; teaching standards; Cherie Blair..... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,121



ACROSS

1 The best foundation for a plot (6-3).
6 What witch may use to live — like this magic, primarily (5).
9 Decide to keep ring in gold coin holder (7).
10 Warning cry's very short always (7).
11 Question about Egyptian grain (5).
12 What could make me read on, absorbing 100? (9).
13 This may clarify what's crude about flashy clothes (8).
15 Indication of engaged status? Yes and no (4).
19 Type that's abandoned Sally (4).
20 Someone held a net I cast in river (8).
23 Comfort, perhaps, for Alcatraz inmate in dismal prison sentence (9).
24 Power line carried by that support structure? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,120

S	A	L	E	M		P	E	A	S	O	U	P	E	R
O		I		A		O		N		P		R		A
F	A	N	C	Y	F	R	E	E		T	H	O	R	N
T		E		O		T		U		I		V		G
G	E	N	E	R	A	L		P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E
O				A		Y		Y		A		S		
O	R	A	C	L	E		P	S	A	L	M	I	S	T
D		L		S		M				O		T		
S	A	C	K	R	A	C	E		B	A	N	N	E	R
		H		E		R		A		T			E	
N	E	E	D	L	E	A	N	D	T	H	R	E	A	D
O		M		I		M		D	E	Y		N		
N	A	I	V	E		B	A	L	T	I	M	O	R	E
E		S		V		L		E		S		K		S
T	I	T	L	E	D	E	E	D		T	R	E	S	S

DOWN

1 Government department alters text in introductions (9).
2 Potential seed beginning one very unusual learning experience (5).
3 Flat ring provided for performing with horses (8).
4 Long shot certain to go over a railway (8).
5 It's a mistake to change sides (6).
6 Ship – British one needing specialist engineers (6).
7 Evidence about accomplished English ruler (9).
8 There has to be an R in the month, stupid! (5).
14 Definite last word on closure of pit? Heavens! (9).
16 Verdant upland turned over to provide space for the rest of the players (5,4).
17 Ambassador wrong to imprison monk for a week (8).
18 Short publication shows limit restricting speed at junction (8).
21 You'll see ball-game in covering winter sports venue (3-3).
22 Replacement locks put on Western American lodge (6).
23 Consecrate bishop? Not so! (5).
25 Drunk, having taken on nearly two pints (5).
26 Part of face 1 declared almost tanned (7).
27 Greek character's total transformation as half-caste (7).
28 Observed conference material (5).
29 I'm taken aback by vision about holy man in central Jordan, say (9).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouos,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 12CC (54F); lowest day max: Liscombe, Somerset, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Camborne, Cornwall, 0.71in; highest sunshine: Anglesey, 7.1hr



FORECAST

☐ **General:** cloudy across England and Wales with a band of light rain and drizzle slowly moving north. This may fall as sleet or snow on the high ground in the North but only in small amounts. Southern areas will see some brightness but have showery bursts of rain.

Sleet and snow in central and northern Scotland will become confined to the far north by the evening. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland should have a mainly dry day with some brightness, although patchy rain or drizzle will arrive later.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** some brightness at times but mainly cloudy with showery bursts of rain. Wind light to moderate, south to southwest. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N England:** cloudy with light rain or drizzle, turning patchy. Wind light to moderate, easterly becoming mainly south to southeast. Max 8C (46C).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** dry for much of the day but cloud thickening later with some patchy rain or drizzle in places. Wind east to northeast, moderate, locally fresh. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** dry for much of the day but cloud thickening with light rain or drizzle later. Wind east to northeast, moderate. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** cloudy with patchy drizzle, sleet or snow on hills. Slowly becoming drier from the south, but staying mostly cloudy. Wind east to northeast, moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mostly cloudy with outbreaks of drizzle, sleet or snow. Wind east to northeast, moderate to fresh. Max 5C (41C).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday:** patchy rain in the north, rain spreading from the southwest later.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.13	3	37	sn	Lerwick	-	0.01	3	37	c
Anglesey	3.4	0.02	12	54	sh	Leuchars	-	0.05	4	39	r
Aspatria	-	-	7	45	c	Littlehmptn	4.9	-	10	50	sg
Aviemore	-	0.01	4	39	r	Liverpool	0.1	-	7	45	c
Belfast	0.1	-	8	46	c	London	-	-	9	48	du
Birmingham	-	-	5	41	du	Manchester	-	-	7	45	du
Bognor R	5.5	-	10	50	s	Margate	-	-	6	43	du
Bournem'th	x					Minehead	1.0	-	5	41	du
Bristol	-	-	7	45	c	Morecambe	-	-	7	45	du
Buxton	-	-	3	37	du	Newcastle	-	0.03	4	39	d
Cardiff	0.1	0.06	6	43	sg	Newquay	7.7	-	x	x	s
Clacton	x	-	4	39	c	Norwich	-	-	5	41	du
Cleethorpes	x					Oxford	x				
Colwyn Bay	4.7	-	12	54	s	Penzance	6.7	0.02	11	52	s
Cromer	-	-	4	39	du	Prestatyn	x	-	12	54	s
Doncaster	x					Ross-o-wye	-	-	5	41	sg
Dunbar	x					Salcombe	0.4	-	8	46	sg
Eastbourne	6.1	-	8	46	s	Sandown	x				
Edinburgh	-	0.01	5	41	du	Saintn Snd	6.5	0.04	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	4	39	du	Scarboro'	x				
Exmouth	x					Shrewsbury	-	-	5	41	du
Falmouth	2.2	0.01	9	48	c	Skegness	x				
Fishguard	7.1	0.09	11	52	s	Southend	-	-	5	41	c
Glasgow	-	-	5	41	du	Southsea	4.0	-	7	45	s
Guernsey	8.7	-	14	57	s	Stornoway	-	0.08	5	41	r
Hastings	7.9	-	9	48	s	Swanage	1.9	-	7	45	b
Hayling I.	5.9	-	10	50	s	Teignmouth	-	-	6	43	du
Herne Bay	-	-	5	41	du	Tiree	-	-	6	43	r
Hove	7.0	-	11	52	s	Torquay	0.4	-	7	45	fg
Hunstanton	2.3	-	5	41	b	Tynemouth	-	-	3	37	c
Isle of Man	0.5	0.01	7	45	c	Ventnor	4.1	-	8	46	sg
Jersey	10.2	-	14	57	s	Weymouth	6.5	-	8	46	s
Kinloss	-	0.01	5	41	r						
Leeds	-	-	5	41	du						

These are Tuesday's figures.

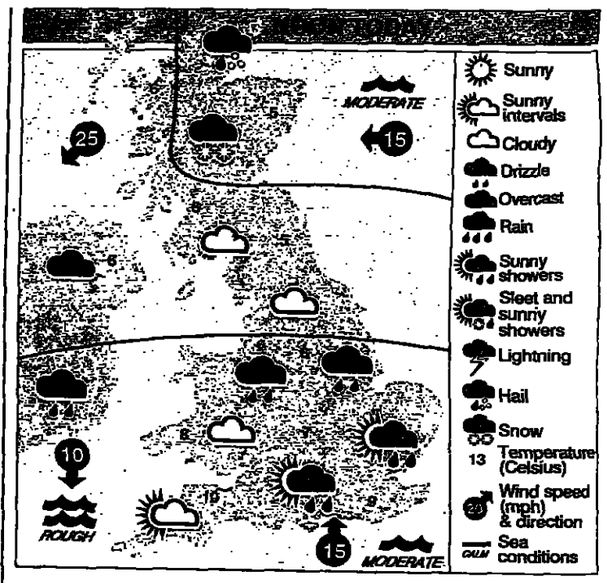
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	f	Corfu	12	54	f	Madrid	9	48	d
Alicatini	15	59	c	C'phagn	4	39	s	Majorca	15	59	s
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malaga	16	61	f
Algiers	20	68	s	Dubrownik	11	52	c	Malta	15	59	f
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Faro	17	63	f	Melb'rne	19	66	f
Athens	9	48	c	Florence	15	59	s	Salzburg	6	43	c
B Aires	31	88	f	Frankfurt	11	52	f	Santiago	26	77	s
Bahrain	28	82	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Mexico C	17	63	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	10	50	c	Miami	25	77	f
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Milan	9	48	c
Barcelona	15	59	s	Helsinki	-1	30	f	Montreal	10	50	x
Beirut	18	64	f	Hong K	17	63	r	Moscow	2	36	s
Belgrade	6	46	s	Innsbruck	7	45	f	Munich	6	43	c
Berlin	2	36	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	N Delhi	27	81	s
Bermuda	20	68	c	Jeddah	32	90	s	N York	5	41	c
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Nairobi	x		
Borde'x	16	61	s	Karachi	x			Naples	13	55	c
Brussels	6	43	f	L Angels	16	61	c	Nice	14	57	s
Budapst	9	48	s	L Palmas	19	66	f	Oslo	-2	28	c
Cairo	21	70	s	Le Tquet	11	52	s	Paris	14	57	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Lisbon	16	61	c	Peking	10	50	s
Ch'church	x			Locarno	x			Perth	23	73	s
Chicago	3	37	f	Luxembg	10	50	s	Prague	4	39	c
Cologne	10	50	s	Lyon	28	82	s	Reykjavik	0	32	s
								Rhodes	13	55	f
								Rio de J	34	93	f

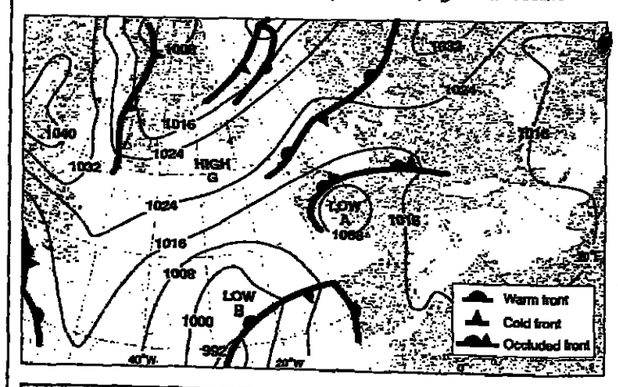
Riyadh	31	88	s	Sydney	23	73	s
Rome	14	57	f	Tangier	18	64	c
S Paulo	25	77	c	Tel Aviv	18	64	f
Seoul	6	43	s	Tenerife	22	72	s
Sing'por	33	91	f	Tokyo	10	50	c
St'kholm	0	32	s	Toronto	11	52	s
Strasb'rg	11	52	f	Tunis	16	61	f
Sydney	23	73	s	Valencia	16	61	s
Tangier	18	64	c	Venice	11	52	s
Tel Aviv	18	64	f	Vienna	6	43	s
Tenerife	22	72	s	Warsaw	3	37	s
Tokyo	10	50	c	Wash'ton	10	50	c
Toronto	11	52	s	Zurich	8	46	c
Tunis	16	61	f				
Valencia	16	61	s				
Venice	11	52	s				
Vienna	6	43	s				
Warsaw	3	37	s				
Wash'ton	10	50	c				
Zurich	8	46	c				

Temperatures at midday local time Tuesday. X = not available

WEATHER SUMMARY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will fill up as low B moves north-northeast from the Azores and deepens a little; high G will decline



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:44	7.3	3:12	7.5	Leith	3:38	5.7	3:57	5.8
Aberdeen	2:21	4.3	2:27	4.5	Liverpool	0:07	9.8	12:27	10.0
Avonmouth	8:25	14.4	8:43	14.1	Lowestoft	10:46	2.4	10:50	2.6
Belfast	0:06	3.5	12:27	3.7	Margate	1:04	5.0	1:33	4.9
Cardiff	8:18	13.2	8:36	12.8	Milford Haven	7:19	7.4	7:38	7.2
Devonport	7:02	5.7	7:22	5.5	Newquey	6:08	7.3	6:27	7.1
Dover	-	-	12:20	6.8	Oban	6:47	4.2	6:57	4.0
Dublin (N Wall)	0:27	4.0	12:41	4.2	Penzance	5:46	5.8	6:04	5.7
Fekmouth	6:28	5.5	6:48	5.2	Portland	8:04	2.3	8:24	2.2
Greenock	1:35	3.4	1:55	3.7	Portsmouth	0:20	4.9	12:39	4.8
Harwich	0:36	4.1	1:05	4.2	Holyhead	11:27	5.9	11:48	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	7:26	7.5	7:33	8.1	Shoreham	0:19	6.7	12:39	6.6
Ilfracombe	7:13	9.9	7:31	9.7	Southampton	11:54	4.7	-	-
King's Lynn	7:19	7.1	7:37	7.3	Swansea	7:33	10.1	7:51	9.8
					Tees	4:44	5.6	4:56	5.7
					Walton-on-Naze	0:35	4.3	1:03	4.4

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.01 am
Sun sets: 6.16 pm
Moon sets 9.00 pm
Moon rises 6.52 am

London 6.16 pm to 5.58 am
Bristol 6.26 pm to 6.08 am
Edinburgh 6.29 pm to 6.09 am
Manchester 6.25 pm to 6.06 am
Penzance 6.37 pm to 6.20 am

First quarter March 27

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Modahl ready to leave her troubles behind

CROMWELL THE PUZZLING PURITAN
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 21 1996

New price cap will see BT bills fall by £20

BY ERIC REGULY

BT customers will see their phone bills fall from an average of £50 a quarter to about £30 over the next five years under new price-cap proposals published yesterday by Oftel, the telecommunications regulator.

BT said that it was "disappointed" by the proposed controls because they are tighter than it had expected. If BT rejects them, Oftel will automatically seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. With BT and Oftel already at loggerheads over other issues, such as policing anti-competitive practises, a monopolies referral now seems all but certain.

BT shares fell 7p to 344½p as investors weighed up the prospect of continued tight controls. Oftel said the new price regime would remove some £1.5 billion a year in "super-normal" operating profits from the company's regulated business.

Don Cruickshank, Oftel's Director-General, proposed that BT's retail prices decline by between 5 per cent and 9 per cent, less the inflation rate, between mid-1997, when the current cap expires, and 2001. The proposals are essentially unchanged from the current cap of 7½ per cent less the inflation rate.

He also proposed the introduction of a wholesale, or "network", price cap, which would reduce prices such as interconnection charges by 3 to 6 per cent a year. The cable-telephony companies applauded the proposal because all their calls have to pass through BT's network.

Retail price caps have been in place since BT was privatised in 1984 and have shaved billions of pounds off the country's phone bills. BT's prices for national and international calls are now among the lowest in the world, although local call prices are nowhere near the cheapest.

Mr Cruickshank said that the price cap could not be eliminated, as BT wished, because BT is still the dominant player in the market. It controls an estimated 94 per cent of local calls, 83 per cent of national calls and 70 per cent of international calls. He said: "The central objectives for the price control review are to protect customers in markets were competition is not yet effective.

"Effective competition is around the corner, but it isn't here yet."

BT disagreed, noting that has some 150 competitors, ranging from Mercury Communications to the cable-telephony companies, which are taking about 50,000 residential customers a month from BT. John Butler, the company's director of regulatory affairs, said: "We expect prices to fall whatever happens because of the intensity of the competition."

Mercury, owned 80 per cent by Cable and Wireless, generally supported BT's view. Mercury has argued that many of BT's competitors have had trouble gaining market share because they cannot afford to match the Oftel-imposed price cuts at BT. Peter Howell-Davies, Mercury's chief executive, said that he does not believe that "continuing with the current, broadly based price capping system, will foster effective competition. Instead it will involve Oftel in continued market management".

Mr Cruickshank said, however, that Oftel eventually wants to stop being a day-to-day regulator and become a competition watchdog.

The precise price figure will be determined in consultation with BT and will depend on a range of complex factors, such as BT's cost of capital, its ability to make efficiency gains, the expected growth in the overall telecoms market and estimates of BT's future share of it. Oftel and BT may even decide to shorten the new price cap to two years and exempt certain services. Oftel said it wants to determine the new price cap's level by the end of May.

☐ BT also announced a £100 million upgrade of its chargecard service, involving the dispatch of some 6 million new cards.

Pennington 27

EYECATCHERS PRESS



Danny Jennings, head of BT's card services, with the new chargecards

Jury begins deliberations in trial of Nadir aide

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE JURY in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth retired to consider its verdict yesterday, five weeks after the case opened at an Old Bailey annexe in central London. Mrs Forsyth, 59, of Great Dunmow, Essex, denies handling nearly £400,000 in funds during a visit to Switzerland in October 1989.

The money was allegedly stolen from Polly Peck International (PPI) by Asil Nadir, who employed Mrs Forsyth to advise on private interests ranging from racehorses to newspapers. The jury of seven women and five men must first decide whether Mr Nadir stole the money. If he did, it must then decide whether Mrs Forsyth knew she was handling stolen goods.

Mr Justice Tucker, concluding his summing up, told the jury they had to consider a series of questions about a transaction which had seen £400,000 pass from London to Geneva, be turned into cash, and return, in part, in a briefcase. Why, in the words of the prosecution, had this "convoluted, six-stage, highly expensive" route been selected to pay two bills in the UK? The judge told the jury: "You may *think that highly relevant.*"

What, the judge continued, did Mrs Forsyth think was going on when she was asked to collect a sum of money from SG Warburg Soditic in Geneva? Was it correct that she had failed to spot the name PPI on a receipt for the money, and if she did see it, why did she make no inquiries about it? Was this a "Middle Eastern" way of doing business, or was it simply dishonest?

Earlier, the judge reminded the jury of a series of police interviews in which Mrs Forsyth was challenged about her actions. She said she had been asked to withdraw the money by Jason Davies, a former stockbroker working for Mr Nadir in Switzerland, and had no reason to suspect it might be stolen. She had been given a very good reason for the transaction at the time, but could not recall what it was.

Mrs Forsyth met the "workaholic" Mr Nadir when advising "very rich people" at Citibank, and was recruited to help to sort out his tax affairs.

In October 1989, she was ordered to Geneva to "hold the hand" of bankers who might consider selling PPI shares held as collateral against personal loans. While there, she received a call from Mr Davies, who told her arrangements had been made for her to "pick up some cash". He told her it was an urgent payment that had to go to Midland Bank in London.

The next day £310,000 was paid into an account at Handlesfinanzbank, and the balance, less £3,000 commission, was forwarded to London. Mrs Forsyth flew back to London with £88,050 in a briefcase, which she handed to Mr Nadir's chauffeur at the airport.

Entries in ledgers in northern Cyprus suggested the sum of £400,000 had been credited to the accounts of Unipac, a PPI subsidiary. The judge reminded the jury that originals of the documents had not been produced, and there was no one to testify that the money had been deposited locally in Turkish lira, as claimed. Expert witnesses had inspected the documents and found no evidence of forgery.

The jury was allowed home for the night after retiring for 2¾ hours, and resumes its deliberations this morning.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3685.4	(-7.6)
Yield	3.83%	
FT-SE A All share	1833.48	(-1.90)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	5635.91	(-33.60)*
S&P Composite	647.78	(-3.91)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	91¹⁄₃₂*	(90²⁵⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.66%*	(6.71%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6⅛)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	105¹⁄₁₆	(104²³⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5379*	(1.5338)
London:		
$	1.5391	(1.5329)
DM	2.2865	(2.2808)
FFr	7.7865	(7.7275)
SFr	1.8311	(1.8262)
Yen	163.57	(162.84)
£ Index	84.0	(83.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4732*	(1.4735)
FFr	5.0470*	(5.0375)
SFr	1.1910*	(1.1902)
Yen	106.44*	(106.18)
$ Index	95.7	(95.6)

Tokyo close Yen unq

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun) $18.10 ($17.75)

GOLD

London close $394.75 ($395.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Flotation

Harrisons & Crosfield, the chemicals, timber and foods company, accompanied a 20 per cent fall in full-year profits with plans to raise £30 million by floating off its remaining plantation interests on the Sydney Stock Exchange.
Page 27, Tempus 28

Uncertain

Bernard Matthews, the poultry and meat processing group, sees an uncertain outlook in the first half of 1996 after raising prices for the first time in years to counter the impact of sharply higher raw material costs.
Page 30

Pledge by Labour on late payment

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR, proclaiming new Labour as the "party of small business", said yesterday a future Labour government will legislate on late payment of debt.

His promise, which came as Brussels agreed a new package of measures to help small firms across Europe, prompted the UK Government to announce it is to consult small firms on a statutory requirement on companies to disclose their performance on late payment.

Mr Blair's commitment to small firms, unveiled at an Industry Forum in London as part of Labour's document *The Growth Agenda*, is a key part of measures aimed at helping small companies.

These measures would include a statutory right to interest on late payment, a requirement on companies to publish their payment practices, and a commitment by the Government and public agencies to pay their bills within 30 days.

Mr Blair's move prompted the Government to bring forward its own announcement. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said that the Government will now consult on the idea that companies should detail in their annual reports their late payment performance and policies. If necessary, the Government would then legislate on the issue.

Labour hailed, page 26
Pennington, page 27

High street sales reverse fall

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH retail sales increased by 0.6 per cent in February, exactly reversing the fall recorded in January, according to the Central Statistical Office.

Figures for activity on the high street have been particularly erratic in recent months but, overall, City economists concluded that sales are on a modest upward trend. The annual rate of increase fell to 1.9 per cent from 2.2 per cent in January, but this was because of a particularly strong trading performance in February last year.

Simon Briscoe, of Nikko Europe, said sales were not yet strong enough to prevent another base rate cut, but that the Chancellor's forecast of 3.5 per cent consumer demand growth this year looks increasingly plausible.

The modestly improving consumer picture was backed by a survey yesterday for the European Commission which showed that consumer confidence edged slightly higher in March. There was also news of a 2 per cent rise in car production in February, after a 3 per cent increase in January. In the past three months, car output was 5.5 per cent higher than the previous three, a bounce which appeared to reflect output for export, rather than the domestic, market. However, production was still flat on a year ago.

The retail sales figures appeared to give mixed messages on the outlook for prices, published by the CSO today. The most buoyant areas appear to be those where price rises have been most modest, suggesting that consumers continue to be highly price sensitive. But there was some concern yesterday about a rise in the retail sales deflator, which has proved a good pointer to retail prices trends. The minutes of the February 7 monetary meeting showed the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England in agreement on keeping rates unchanged. The next month they agreed on a ¼-point cut. The Governor expressed some worries about M4 money supply and wages. The Chancellor appeared to be fairly relaxed about both.

Tentative housing recovery

THE tentative nature of the housing recovery and cut-throat competition for new mortgage business was underlined yesterday when building societies reported a £157 million monthly fall in net home loan advances to £603 million (Robert Miller writes).

However, leading UK banks announced mortgage lending increased in February to £631 million (£578 million in January). The Building Societies Association, which also announced a £113 million inflow of savers' funds (£272 million outflow in January), said that capital repayments on mortgages "persisted at higher than normal levels" and explained most of the net lending fall.

Peter Williams, BSA head of research, said there had probably been a shift in market share between banks and building societies. Indicators, overall suggested a modest housing recovery is under way.

☐ The Bank of England said February M4 money supply grew 0.4 per cent but its annual rate of growth fell to 9.9 per cent from 10.3 per cent in January. However, the figures appeared to show a stronger trend in bank loans.

SE fails to avert inquiry threat



Kemp-Welch: pressed

BY ROBERT MILLER

EVIDENCE given by the Stock Exchange's senior executives to the Commons Treasury Select committee yesterday failed to lift the threat of a further investigation by the OFT into allegations that Exchange policy is dominated by a handful of the largest members and is therefore anti-competitive.

The Stock Exchange delegation, headed by John Kemp-Welch, chairman, told MPs who are investigating the future of the London Stock Exchange, that at a board meeting later today the Exchange's directors would be urged to vote in favour of scrapping the present order driven system of buying and selling shares. It would be replaced by an electronic order matching service to eliminate the spread between buy and sell prices.

Sir Tom Arnold, chairman of the committee said last night: "We will wait to see the precise details of what the Stock Exchange proposes. We have already received a written submission from the OFT and in the light of what the Exchange announces we will ask the OFT to report swiftly on its views of the new system. Depending on what the OFT says we may ask the director of Fair Trading to give evidence to us in person. There are many questions still unanswered."

The committee pressed Mr Kemp-Welch repeatedly on circumstances surrounding the January sacking of Michael Lawrence, the Exchange's former chief executive. In his evidence to MPs last month Mr Lawrence said he was certain he would have kept his job if Mr Kemp-Welch had backed him. Mr Kemp-Welch said yesterday that this was "a doubtful proposition".

The Stock Exchange delegation repeatedly denied Mr Lawrence's allegations that opposition to his reforms by BZW, Merrill Lynch and SBC Warburg led to his sacking.

Pennington, page 27

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Britannic to cover critical illness

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

BRITANNIC Assurance, which stopped selling motor policies in January because of crippling competition from direct writers, is to launch its first critical illness product.

Brian Shaw, general manager and actuary, said the policies would be marketed to new customers and to the 940,000 households countrywide already on its books, and would be aimed at the "upper end" of its client list. Other insurers are looking at healthcare and illness products amid falling life and pensions sales.

Britannic sells insurance door-to-door and does not have a direct telephone operation, although after a review of operations the company is to increase its investment in new technology and has not ruled out job cuts.

The shares fell 3p to 779p yesterday after the company was unable to indicate whether the Department of Trade and Industry will allow it to reallocate orphan assets to shareholders. Analysts estimate these assets range between £700 million and £1.4 billion.

Unveiling operating profit before tax of £50.6 million for the year to 1995, up 7.1 per cent on the 1994 restated figure of £47.3 million, Mr Shaw said that new life and pensions business written in 1995 was lower than in the previous year.

However, there was an improving trend in the second half of 1995, which continued into 1996. Total life and pensions premiums for the year fell by 4.6 per cent to £361.5 million.

Britannic, which had 26,000 motor policies when it decided to stop writing new business, will continue to cover policyholders until renewal.

Earnings per share rose to 25.17p (1994: 10.34p) and the proposed final dividend is 10.8p per share net, giving a total for the year of 15.4p, a rise of 10 per cent.

ANDREW HASSON



Dennis Webb, right, with Andrew Calvert, Beazer financial director, is cautiously optimistic despite a fall in profits

Beazer looks to upturn in second half

BEAZER HOMES yesterday predicted an improvement in its fortunes in the second half of the year after unveiling half-year profits down by nearly a quarter at £18.5 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Shares in the company rose 2p to 175p, although Beazer gave warning that the recovery would be insufficient to restore full-year profits to the levels of last year.

Dennis Webb, chief executive, said: "With the favourable mortgage market and declining unemployment we believe that a cautious upturn in the market will continue.

"Our policy of defending margins last year was successful and we are in a strong position to benefit from the revival."

Turnover fell 23 per cent to £158 million. The interim net dividend of 2p (1.95p) is payable on April 29.

Blair hails Labour as the party for small business

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday declared itself to be the "party for small business" as it set out a new package of proposals aimed at giving assistance to small firms by a Labour government.

In addition to the declaration by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, of his party's intention to legislate on late payment of debt, senior Labour figures set out a series of measures aimed at the small business sector.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Treasury Chief Secretary, said Labour's commitment to working with small firms now marked out "new Labour as the party of small business". He told a conference on small business: "Small firms will benefit especially from Labour's determination to secure sustainable expansion with a medium-term growth strategy, aimed at raising the trend rate of growth with low inflation."

At a conference organised by the Industry Forum, the body set up by Labour to provide links between Labour and business, Mr Smith said Labour would act to close the investment gap, modernising and simplifying the tax system, tackling tax abuse and taking steps to encourage long-term investment and its availability to small business. The Forum published yesterday a policy document that sets out Labour's proposals on small business.

He said that every economic and fiscal proposal brought forward by Labour "will be examined for what it can do to nurture small business success".

Labour unveiled a pilot site on the Internet, called the Enterprise Zone, aimed at providing easy access for small business to a range of information — an idea mentioned by ministers last week at their own small business conference as an objective.

Clear interest in Labour's plans for small business was indicated by the wealth of businesses, industry organisations and others speaking at yesterday's conference.

Stan Mendham, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business, said that the conference showed clearly that Labour had "come a long way" in its relationship with business and small firms in particular. He said that if Labour wanted to be the party of small business, "they will have to measure accurately what we need, and then they will have to meet those needs. If they don't, the economy will not grow."

Ron Taylor, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, urged Labour to build on present policy: "We are looking for stability and consistency in government policy-making so we can plan forward with confidence."

Stephen Alambritis, from the Federation of Small Business, said that large firms were still cutting jobs, whereas small firms could repeat their 2.5 million job growth over the past 20 years. Mr Blair will address the federation's annual conference next week.

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Brussels plan to boost small firms

BRUSSELS announced a new programme of help for small businesses across Europe yesterday in a renewed attempt to promote economic and employment growth (Philip Bassett writes).

European Commissioners meeting in Brussels agreed a new, four-year, 180 million Ecu package of measures, aimed at improving the competitiveness and impact of small firms. The package, called the third multi-annual programme for SMEs, reflects a greater realisation in Brussels of the importance of the small firms sector, and is part of the European Confidence Pact on Employment being proposed by Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, to promote job growth.

Christos Papoutsis, the EU commissioner who has responsibility for enterprise policy, said yesterday that the SME sector accounted for 99 per cent of all European firms, covering two thirds of total employment and 65 per cent of all EU business turnover.

The new programme, which will now go before the EU's council of industry ministers, focuses on encouraging an economic environment favourable to small firms, improving small firms' competitiveness in the single market, and improving consultation and policy development with small firms.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's rescue needs '£4.8bn to succeed'

A GROUP indirectly representing 20,000 members in Lloyd's of London said the troubled insurance market's Reconstruction and Renewal plan needs more financing. Alan Porter, deputy chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party, said its view was that half of the losses of £11 billion-£12 billion in the market have resulted from negligence, fraud and regulatory failure. Mr Porter, speaking at a conference organised by the Association of Lloyd's Names, said the rescue plan needed £4.8 billion to succeed, rather than the £2.8 billion now being offered.

Mr Porter said the scheme's litigation pool of £800 million is too small to settle all the lawsuits from different groups of names and provides an inadequate return for those who have already obtained court judgments. At least £1 billion, and preferably £1.2 billion, is needed to create an offer worth serious consideration. Mr Porter believes names should not be asked to come up with more money than they already have in Lloyd's.

Swedes size-up Fokker

SAAB and FFV Aerotech, the Swedish aircraft and defence firms each said yesterday that they are considering buying parts of Fokker, the failed Dutch aircraft maker.Anders Annerfalk, a Saab Aircraft spokesman, said: "We have visited Fokker and made an unbiased study to see if there are operations that we would be interested in acquiring or if there are possibilities for cooperation." FFV Aerotech, a subsidiary of Celsius AB, may be interested in Fokker's Product Support activities, the company said. But neither company has begun formal negotiations or made formal proposals.

Centre jobs hope

A PROJECT to spend £31 million on conference facilities could create up to 1,000 new jobs in Scotland. New facilities at Glasgow's Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre will cater for up to 3,000 delegates. Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary of State, said they will place Scotland at the heart of the international conference circuit. "With facilities for up to 3,000 delegates, it will offer a unique opportunity for Scotland to improve substantially its share of the international conference market." The new centre will have two auditoriums, a business centre, committee rooms, stages and accommodation.

Digital warning

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT is the latest victim of sluggish sales of personal computers, warning investors that it expects its current quarterly earnings to fall well below Wall Street expectations. The company said it expected revenues from sales of personal computers in its third quarter to be lower than expected and its earnings are likely to be below the current range of analysts' estimates for the quarter. Digital said, however, that the results are expected to reflect continued profit improvement year-over-year.

Telspec advances

TELSPEC, the electronic equipment company, lifted pre-tax profits by 33 per cent to £8.72 million in the year to December 31, in spite of incuring a number of unforseen problems which wiped £1.5 million off full-year profits. The company said that the cost of integrating its newly acquired Scottish plant with an existing factory in Rochester proved to be greater than expected. Turnover advanced 62 per cent to £58.8 million. A final dividend of 3.6p (2.4p), payable on May 20, gives 5.4p (3.7p) for the year, from earnings ahead 24 per cent to 17.9p (14.4p) a share.

Mediators stand by

FEDERAL mediators are on standby to help General Motors and union negotiators who have been unable to end a two-week-old strike that has left 175,000 workers idle. The strike began on March 5 at two plants in Dayton, Ohio, by about 3,000 employees of Delphi Chassis, a GM supplier of brake parts. The dispute was started by union fears that GM would start to provide more brake production business to outside companies. The stoppage has now shut down 26 of GM's 29 North American vehicle assembly plants.

SiR plans to join AIM

SYSTEMS INTEGRATED RESEARCH (SiR), which designs, produces and supplies multi-media educational software, plans to join the Alternative Investment Market next week. A placing by Durlacher of up to 3.7 million shares, at 115p each, is expected to raise about £3 million for the company, capitalising it at about £15.4 million. SiR expects to make a small profit in the current year to May and hopes to make a pre-tax profit of about £500,000 in the following year to May 1997, on turnover of £3.5 million.

OGC achieves 10% rise

OGC INTERNATIONAL, the oil and gas industry construction company, achieved a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14.2 million last year despite a 14 per cent decline in turnover to £232.9 million. Earnings increased to 14.79p a share from 13.55p and the total dividend rises to 6.3p a share from 5.75p, with a 4.3p final. The Aberdeen group completed a redevelopment of Shell's Brent B platform and BHP's Point of Ayr gas processing terminal in North Wales in 1995. Richard Wilson, chairman, said the group expected to see further progress this year.

Jupiter bonuses study

INVESTIGATORS from Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, were yesterday still studying allegations that Jupiter Tyndall, the fund management group bought by the German Commerzbank last year for £169 million, had breached City rules relating to staff bonus payments and the handling of client assets. Jupiter Tyndall, which has £4 billion under management in a mixture of unit and investment trusts as well as pension funds, denies any wrong doing.



Mixed jobs fortune for Scotland

MIXED fortunes are in prospect for the jobless in Scotland, says the Scottish Economic Bulletin, published by The Scottish Office.

Although the jobless total will continue to fall, it is expected that Scotland will suffer a higher average unemployment rate than that of UK as a whole.

But Scottish exports will remain healthy and growth will outstrip that of the UK as a whole next year. The bulletin, an official review of the Scottish economy, states that, last October, one-third of all claimants unemployed north of the border were out of work for over a year.

A further third had been out of work from three to 12 months and the final third for less than three months. Of all the regions in the UK, Scotland has the third lowest incidence of long term unemployment (over two years). Only East Anglia and the South West were lower.

The bulletin says that Scottish manufactured exports grew more than twice as quickly as those of the UK as a whole in 1994. Further growth was estimated last year taking their value to over £16 billion.

Valentine's celebration for Clinton

BY SARAH BAGNALL

DON LEWIN, chairman of Clinton Cards, said the greetings card retailer had had its best ever Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.

The occasions are the two most important in the retailer's calendar, after Christmas. "Sales were particularly good. They were the best we have had," said Mr Lewin.

He made his remarks as he revealed a 23 per cent leap in pre-tax profit from £2.6 million to £3.2 million on sales ahead 30 per cent at £109.8 million in the year to January 28. Like-for-like sales rose 4.7 per cent, excluding the Hall of Cards stores acquired in 1994.

During the year the company acquired 112 stores from Carlton Cards, helping to lift the total number of shops from 362 to 486.

Mr Lewin said the acquired stores contributed to profits, but margins suffered because of the discounting of acquired lines of stock that the group does not want to trade.

The final dividend of 3.35p makes a total for the year of 5.1p, up 8.3 per cent. Due on May 28, it is being paid out of earnings per share of 10.23p, up 17.8 per cent.

Store considers response to takeover bid

Panther pounces on Elys

BY MARTIN BARROW

ONE of the sleepier corners of the Stock Exchange was rudely awakened by a takeover bid yesterday.

Elys (Wimbledon), the department store, was last night considering its response to a near-£7 million bid by Panther Securities, the investment vehicle of Andrew Perloff, the entrepreneur.

Elys has remained largely unchanged as a one-store business for a generation, despite operating two Beds for Less discount stores in Surrey.

Shareholders have seen their shares significantly underperform the stock market for as long as anyone cares to remember. Panther Securities emerged as a potential predator when it acquired a 29.9 per cent interest formerly held by Boots the Chemist in May. It proposes to appoint to the Elys board Manny Silverman, the former apprentice tailor who rose to become chief executive of Moss Bros Group for seven years until 1987.

The structure of the Panther offer is highly unusual and required the approval of the Takeover Panel before being submitted to shareholders.

There is a two-tier cash offer, consisting of 750p a share in cash for up to one out of every three Elys shares, and of 485p in cash for all or any part of the balance of Elys shares held. Elys' rarely-traded shares were unchanged at 550p yesterday. Panther hopes to retain Elys' stock market listing.

Elys directors refused to comment on the offer last night. Their record was strongly attacked by Panther, which claims dividends have barely risen since 1991 and have fallen in real terms, while sales per sq ft are below those of other department stores. Elys profits, which were £1.11 million before tax in 1991, were £409,000 last year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	16.92	15.42
Belgium Fr	49.46	45.16
Canada $	2.191	2.031
Cyprus Cypf	0.752	0.687
Denmark Kr	9.25	8.55
Finland Mrk	7.81	6.96
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	390.00	365.00
Hong Kong $	12.50	11.50
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1300	4.4800
Italy Lira	2493.00	2338.00
Japan Yen	177.00	161.00
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.684	2.454
New Zealand $	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	6.55	5.75
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.79	9.99
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	111005.	103005.
USA $	1.630	1.500

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Regulator rings changes at telecoms giant ☐ Small business is a big issue ☐ The acceptable face of accounting

Wrong number for BT

☐ THE end is nigh for the BT we know — and thanks to the advertisements — love. Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, has virtually obliged BT to buy Cable and Wireless or split itself, British Gas-style, into a network company and a services company. It cannot continue unchanged and making £3 billion a year because Mr Cruickshank has made it clear that it will get few breaks on the regulatory front before the next century.

Sooner or later, BT should come to the conclusion that it is the quarry of a single-minded hunter with time to spare. To survive, and to serve its shareholders conscientiously, it must reduce the importance of its network or get rid of it entirely.

BT's sin is that it still dominates every sector of the telecoms market a dozen years after it theoretically lost its monopoly. As a result, Mr Cruickshank has proposed an extension of the price cap. This ensures currently that prices to customers fall by 7½ per cent a year in real terms. This will be renewed in mid-1997 at a figure somewhere between RPI-5 per cent to RPI-9 per cent. No change, in other words, though a few services and market segments may qualify for an exemption on the basis that enough competition has developed in those areas to ensure that prices will not rise.

Mr Cruickshank's latest proposals make him look a consumer champion. Under his predecessors, prices have already come down in real terms year after year, shaving billions off phone bills. But he could now be driving down BT's return on capital to the point where it could hurt the company and will prevent any real competition.

A glance at the share price indicates all too clearly that the market suspects he is bent on doing so. Since privatisation, BT shares have underperformed the FT-SE 100 index by about 35 per cent. Virtually no City analyst has listed the stock as a "buy" for the past two years, and investors' opinions are unlikely to change now. Not a good return for Sid. What he gains on his phone bills he has lost on his shares.

BT will be hard pressed to finance these continued price cuts. With its redundancy programme largely completed, it is hard to see where efficiency savings on this scale will continue to flow from.

BT has little room to negotiate with the regulator. Unless it wants to trigger a monopolies inquiry, *a la* British Gas, it will have to accept a new price cap that, in all probability, will last until 2001. To reduce its exposure to regulated returns, it will have to expand its foreign presence. Doing so through the purchase of C&W has now become even more compelling. Or BT can give up and liberate itself from the domestic network.

Mr Cruickshank seems determined to govern BT's network as though it were some social service rather than a fast-changing integrated business. It seems BT might as well cut it adrift and divert its cash flow elsewhere while it still can.



Early late announcement

☐ NOT since the Chancellor made his ill-fated early morning announcement about share options on the day the Greenbury report was published has the Government made a move as early in the day as Ian Lang's 7am announcement on consulting on late payment.

It is a measure of the political heat that this issue, and the question of small business in general, is now producing that the President of the Board of Trade felt impelled to do so. Just as Kenneth Clarke's move, which he subsequently had to withdraw, was a pre-emptive panic about boardroom pay, so Mr Lang's dawn declaration was intended to upstage Labour leader Tony Blair's pledge on late payment, planned for a few hours later.

Unfortunately for small business, both moves were largely bogus. Although Mr Blair's statement is the first time that he as party leader has given his personal endorsement to legislation on late payment, such a commitment has been Labour Party policy for some years.

The Government's early morning move is, if anything, even more questionable. Last week John Major said he personally favoured requiring companies to disclose their payment practices, as well as their payment policy. This they are already legally required to do. Bizarrely, Mr Lang and other ministers blithely went on to explain that the issue was very complicated, and needed considering. Now it will be legal regulations by the autumn — but again, only if appropriate.

What is significant, though, is the sharply different responses to Mr Blair's proposal from the CBI and the small business bodies.

Small businesses also differ on the value of statutory rights on late payment, with some arguing the practical reality of dealing with larger companies is rather different to the theory of legislative provision.

What is clear is that without a strong and growing small business sector, there will be little economic and employment growth, on which electoral prospects rest. Despite the pitfalls, small business support is still a political prize worth pursuing.

Take care who you associate with

☐ THE Accounting Standards Board cannot be accused of being inflexible in its latest exposure draft. Earlier proposals to clamp down on abuse of accounting for associate companies and joint ventures have been eased after hurt responses. Sir David Tweedie's reappointment to another term as chairman has, it seems, made him more relaxed, not magisterial.

Most of the changes address practical points, rather than mere general moans. Hence, joint ventures are defined separately, rather than being lumped in with associates. This will accommodate strange Euro and other semi-corporate creatures such as Airbus that essentially act as umbrellas under which individual companies ply their own trades co-operatively. But the draft rules, if turned into a standard, will organise accounting treatment of joint ventures systematically for the first time.

By laying down less mechanical rules, embarrassments of venture capitalists will be eased while the "associate of convenience" should become a rarity. For instance, a company could no longer equity account an arms-length stake in another, such as the relic of a failed hostile bid. *Per contra*, associates' losses could not be ring-fenced simply by writing them off.

If these gains sound modest, it is because many of the worst abuses have already been stopped. Even the intractable issues of goodwill and intangible assets have been defused. Despite a new farrago over principles, in practice peace is returning and accounting becoming respectable again.

Praise be damned

☐ THE ghost of Michael Lawrence haunted the Treasury Select Committee last night as his chairman at the Stock Exchange and market makers damned him with the faint praise that the City is so good at. The former Exchange chief was "liked as a man", "a flawed genius" and "a reformer". They were also smart enough to gag Lawrence with his pay-off the night before, or we might have had heard more robust phrases.

Harrisons & Crosfield to raise £30m in float

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the chemicals, timber and foods company, said yesterday that it was aiming to raise £30 million by floating off its remaining plantation interests on the Sydney Stock Exchange.

Harrisons jointly owns the New Britain Palm Oil plantation with the Papua New Guinea Government. Last year the company's 54 per cent stake in the plantation yielded record profits of £26.7 million as the price of palm oil touched an all-time high.

The announcement came as Harrisons revealed a 20 per cent increase in full-year operating profits to £130 million before exceptional items. But pre-tax profits at £120 million were well below last year's level of £237 million, which included about £140 million in profits from disposals.

Bill Turcan, chief executive, said that the company expected a slow start from the timber and chemicals division, while profits from the plantation division would return to more normal levels as the prices fell.

Mr Turcan added that the company expected to spend up to £300 million on acquisitions this year, concentrating on purchases to fit in with the pigment and timber and building businesses. Mr Turcan said the company was ungeared and that it was confident of raising funds for the acquisitions by increasing debt, although it was not intending to make any hasty decisions.

Profits in the timber and building division fell by 34 per cent to £21.6 million and the company was forced to make a £5.4 million charge to cover restructuring and the closure of 14 sites with the loss of around 500 jobs.

Harrisons said the action taken should yield cost savings of about £7 million this year, but the company remained cautious over prospects for the division, warning that it was yet to see a major recovery in demand.

A strong performance from the chrome business helped the chemicals and industrial division to increase profits by 26 per cent to £50 million. But the pigment division, which supplies paint companies, suffered from the weak construction market and destocking in the US.

The food and agricultural division also raised profits by a third to £31.6 million, with a good showing from the malt and pig businesses. The pet food business performed well, although the animal feed businesses suffered from rising raw material costs and a smaller national pig herd. But the company predicted an improving performance from the food division this year, boosted by continued growth in the malt market.

The total dividend was held at 9p with a final dividend of 5.4p, payable on July 1. Shares in the company fell 4p to close at 167p.

Tempus, page 28

Trinity makes progress

TRINITY International Holdings, the newspaper publisher, said that integration of the UK regional newspapers of Thomson Corporation, acquired for £286 million last year, was progressing well (Martin Barrow writes).

The purchase, which transformed Trinity into the biggest regional newspaper company in Britain, was completed on January 8 and had no impact on financial results for 1995. But Philip Graf, chief executive, said the performance of the Thomson newspapers in Belfast, Newcastle, Teesside and Chester had been encouraging.

Trinity pre-tax profits were £27.5 million (£22.9 million) with earnings of 21.5p, against an adjusted 21.8p. The dividend rises to 10.7p (9.7p) with a 7.4p final.

Marley begins the move out of vehicle products

BY CARL MORTISHED

MARLEY, the building products group, is selling part of its automotive products business after another difficult year in which setbacks in all its divisions left pre-tax profits for 1995 down 21 per cent to £46.3 million. Excluding exceptional items, profits fell from £47.8 million to £43.6 million and the full year dividend is maintained at 4.7p.

Marley is selling part of the automotive components division to Magna International, of Canada, for £53.2 million and is in talks to sell its share in the Davidson Marley joint venture, which makes up the rest of its automotive business. Profits in the automotive business, which makes interior trim and instrument panels, fell from £5.5 million to £2.3 million last year over difficult trading in Germany and start-up costs. David Trapnell, Marley's chief executive, said the business needed to invest heavily to meet the demands of car manufacturers who were seeking to consolidate their supply chains.



Trapnell: strong orders

"In the next few years it would be competing with building products for capital," he said. After the sale, Marley's gearing will fall from 60 per cent to 36 per cent and the anticipated sale of its interest in the joint venture will cut debt further, he said.

A sharp increase in the cost of polymer resin hurt Marley's plastics division, including Syroco, the garden furniture business acquired early last year. Profits from plastics were down from £32.6 million to £30.9 million, while Syroco contributed less than £400,000 over nine months because of a sharp fall in gross margin due to higher costs.

Marley's core concrete and clay products suffered from the slowdown in new housebuilding in the UK and the US but lower volumes were offset in part by higher prices, leaving profits marginally lower than last year. Mr Trapnell said order books were strong.

Tempus, page 28

Flextech completes Family deal

BY ERIC REGULY

FLEXTECH, the cable and satellite progamming group, announced a flurry of deals, including the purchase of the Family Channel and a controlling stake in the "infomercial" businesss of the Home Shopping Network.

Flextech, which is half owned by Telecommunications Inc, America's largest cable company, has agreed to buy the 61 per cent of the Family Channel in Britain that it does not already own, from International Family Entertainment Inc. It is paying a total of £30.5 million, made up of £3 million in cash and 5.8 million new shares issued at 475p apiece. Flextech shares closed unchanged at 520p.

A new Flextech subsidiary will have a 79 per cent interest in the British infomercial division of the Home Shopping Network as a "further expansion of Flextech's business into electronic retailing".

Flextech reported a pre-tax profit of £16.4 million in the year to December 31, against a loss of £18.5 million in 1994, on turnover that rose 51 per cent to £34 million. The profit figure was boosted by a £33.2 million gain on the sale of assets. Earnings per share were 6.32p against a loss of 21.53p. The operating loss rose from £11.1 million to £13 million, partly because of start-up costs of new channels. No dividends are paid.

Tempus, page 28

Kwik-Fit plans to grow as profits reach a high



DES JENSON

Tom Farmer says Kwik-Fit will get 100 new outlets

BY SARAH BAGNALL

KWIK-FIT, the chain of car repair centres, plans to open a further 100 outlets and more than double the number of mobile tyre-fitting vehicles during the current year.

The company currently operates through 787 specialist fitting centres and 100 fully equipped mobile tyre-fitting vehicles on the road.

The news comes as Tom Farmer, the chairman, disclosed that Kwik-Fit had produced record profits and sales in the year ending February 29.

Pre-tax profit rose 24 per cent from £29.3 million to £36.3 million on sales ahead 23 per cent at £365.4 million. Mr Farmer said: "This has been a year of outstanding performance. This was a year when things began to fall into place."

He added that he expected 100 more Kwik-Fit centres would be opened this year, through a combination of acquisitions and organic growth, while the number of mobile units would be increased from 100 to 250 and the service extended to specific sectors of the private motorist.

The final dividend of 3.1p makes a total for the year of 5p, up from 4.4p last time. The dividend, due May 10, is paid out of earnings of 14.7p a share, compared with 11.9p.

The shares rose 3½p to 202p.

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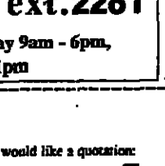
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Terraced House: ☐ Detached Bungalow: ☐

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Weir engineers a sharp rise

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Weir Group, the engineering products and services group based in Scotland, rose 23p to 258p yesterday after the company reported a sharp rise in profits in 1995 and a record order book.

Pre-tax profits were £45.5 million last year, which compared with reported profits of £30.5 million in 1994 when the company charged £7.8 million against reorganisation costs. At the operating level profits advanced to £42.09 million from £32.46 million.

Profit margins at 6.8 per cent were little changed year-on-year and trading conditions remained competitive. The company said that it still refused to take orders only to increase volume, and evidence was now emerging of "more sensible" price levels for engineering products in some markets.

In addition, Weir is selectively withdrawing from areas such as the site and erection activities of Strachan & Henshaw, a subsidiary, where the margins available no longer justified the contractual risks involved.

New order input totalled £639 million, which compared with £462 million in the previous year, even though no major desalination contract was booked. The largest single order taken was just £20 million. The final quarter showed a particularly strong order intake. Turnover of £622 million rose from £476 million in the previous 12 months. The Americas now comprise Weir's single largest market.

Earnings were 16.6p a share, rising from 13p previously and from 16.1p if exceptional items are excluded. The total dividend is increased to 7.5p a share from 6.96, with a final 5.3p payable on June 14.

Weir ended the year with net debt of £9.7 million, which represents gearing of just 5 per cent. The company expects to use its balance-sheet strength to continue a series of relatively modest acquisitions, with the aim of strengthening its core businesses.

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

London stays in step with downbeat Wall Street

THE London stock market continues to dance to Wall Street's tune. Share prices in the Square Mile struggled to make headway, before closing with modest losses, mainly reflecting an opening fall of 45 points in the Dow Jones industrial average. By contrast, government securities clawed back early losses to finish with some impressive gains.

The FT-SE 100 index was down almost 20 points in early trading, taking its lead from the overnight setback on Wall Street. Investors' anxiously awaited the latest retail sales figures. These provided further evidence of a revival in the high street, effectively scuppering remaining hopes of another cut in interest rates.

In the event, the index finished 7.6 lower at 3,685.4 in thin trading that saw 703 million shares change hands.

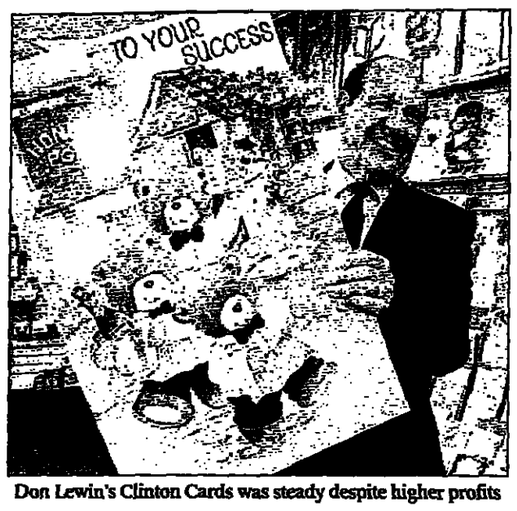
Early attention focused on **BT**, with the price falling 7½p to 344½p as investors switched into rival **Cable and Wireless**, up 8p at 491p. There has been intense speculation in recent weeks about a possible bid by BT for C&W. BT's case will not have been helped by the new pricing formula issued yesterday by Oftel, the industry regulator. Under Oftel's proposals, telephone bills may fall by as much as 9 per cent and could result in the average bill being slashed by at least £50 a time. BT was clearly unimpressed and said further jobs may have to go.

An industry expert claimed last night that BT could be worth up to £37 billion if it were broken up into six separate divisions. It is currently capitalised at £22 billion.

Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, stood out with a rise of 9p at 581p. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, is telling clients that recent weakness in the shares presents a buying opportunity.

There was a big put-through recorded in shares of **Royal Bank of Scotland** just before the official close of business. A line of about 3 million shares was placed at 533½p before being sold on at 538p. The price closed 8p off at 537p.

The biggest fall on the day was recorded in **Telspec**, down 117p at 693p, after full-year figures failed to live up to expectations. The communications specialist was brought to market in October 1994 by Credit Lyonnais Laing and has seen it shares reach £10.45.



Don Lewin's Clinton Cards was steady despite higher profits

Costs are still being cut at **Harrison & Crosfield**, but it does not appear to be benefiting profits which took a nose dive last year. At the operating level, profits were up, but at the pre-tax level, they were down from £236.7 million to £119.6 million. The shares responded with a fall of 3p to 167p.

Marley, 1p firmer at 129p, also suffered a tough time last year with pre-tax profits down from an unadjusted £58.7 million to £46.3 million. Trading conditions were described as tough, with Sir George Russell claiming that prospects for the current year depended on the levels of activity in the housing and refurbishment markets in both Britain and the US. The group has sold its automotive arm for £53.5 million.

Another company suffering the slump in the building industry last year was **Beazer Homes**, 2p firmer at 175p. Pre-tax profits were down £4 million at £18.5 million as the number of new completions fell 581 to 2,001. The company was determined to protect margins at the expense of volumes and said it had seen a modest rise in demand towards the end of the year which may help it recover some losses. The group played down speculation that it was desperate to make an acquisition.

Britannic Assurance failed to benefit from a near doubling of profits last year, with the shares sliding 3p to 779p. **Weir Group** responded to an impressive profits rise with a jump of 23p to 258p. As brokers began upgrading their profit forecasts for the current year, Weir said it had scope to make some substantial acquisitions.

Hanson appears to have placed most of its holding in Wassall, the fast-growing industrial conglomerate. Brokers reported a put-through of 4.28 million shares at 276p. About 3.5 million of them were later sold on at 277p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, Hanson's own broker, is believed to have transacted the business. It coincided with full-year figures from Wassall, up 10p to 287p, showing pre-tax profits last year more than doubling to £57.5 million.

Better than expected full-year figures **Kwik Fit Holdings**, the brakes and exhausts specialists, lifted the shares 3½p to 202p. A flat performance last year left **Bernard Matthews**, the turkey producer, 3p easier at 95p, while **Clinton Cards** was unchanged at 153p after raising profits last year from £2.6 million to £3.2 million.

CRH, the Irish aggregates group, is splashing out $87 million to acquire the Jack B Parsons Companies, the Utah aggregates business. CRH finished 4p better at 574p.

Shares of **Symonds Engineering** were suspended at 61p as it announced plans to hit the acquisition trail. It is acquiring Zlin, of Tewkesbury, the supplier of printed circuit boards for £11.5 million.

Shares of **Torex Hire** returned from suspension 9p higher at 41p after the completion of an acquisition.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices opened lower, reflecting stronger than expected German money supply figures.

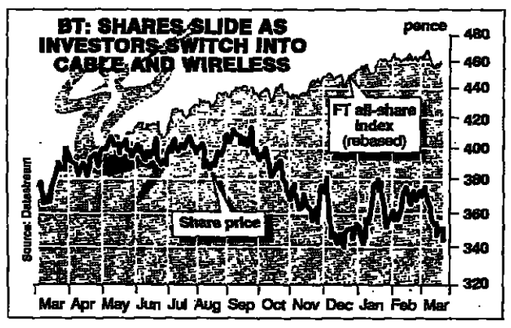
In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed £19/32 higher at £105 5/16 as turnover rose sharply with a total of 65,500 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 jumped £21/32 to £97 1/16, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was six ticks better at £102 9/32.

The Bank of England was able to supply further tranches of the new tap Index-Linked Treasury 2½ per cent 2009.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares were weaker at midday as an earnings warning from Digital Equipment Corp sent the technology sector reeling. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 33.60 to 5,635.91.

Elys (Wimbledon), the stores group, is a good example of why there is scope for an order-driven trading system being introduced. It found itself on the receiving end of a 750p offer from Panther Securities, but an absence of competitive market-making in the shares meant they finished unchanged at 550p.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5635.91 (-33.60)
S&P Composite 647.78 (-3.91)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10836.53 (-43.97)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 527.72 (-0.21)

Sydney:
AO 2249.4 (-6.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2485.90 (-7.36)

Singapore:
Straits 2383.96 (-1.34)

Brussels:
General 8722.95 (+1.75)

Paris:
CAC-40 1969.79 (+2.59)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 767.20 (-1.70)

London:

FT 30	2756.4 (-2.6)
FT 100	3685.4 (-7.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	4282.2 (+8.0)
FT-SE-A 350	1854.0 (-2.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1608.30 (-0.35)
FT A All-Share	1833.48 (-1.90)
FT Non Financials	1953.72 (-1.53)
FT Fixed Interest	110.78 (-0.20)
FT Govt Secs	92.45 (+0.36)
Bargains	38358
SEAQ Volume	703.1m
USM (Datastrm)	209.35 (+1.62)
US$	1.5363 (+0.0040)
German Mark	2.2696 (+0.0076)
Exchange Index	84.0 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1963
£:SDR	1.0475
RPI	150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	516	–	5
Capital & Wstm	2		...
Clubhaus Warrants	3		...
Freepages (12)	15		...
IOC Intl	130	–	1
Life Off Opps (100)	52½	+	½
M & G Equity Cap	22½		...
M & G Equity Div	90		...
M & G Equity Inc	43½		...
Macdonald Htl (145)	189	+	3
Primary Hlth (100)	105	+	2
Saracen Value C	97		...
Schroder UK G Uts	255½	+	6
Stadium Group (120)	140	+	1
Streamline (180)	175		...
Visual Action (185)	232		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

MAID	226p (+30p)
Weir	258p (+23p)
Adwest	131p (+10p)
Austin Reed	232p (+15p)
Flare	175p (+11p)
Mitel	415p (+23p)
Dorling Kind	545p (+29p)
Young 'A'	513p (+27p)
Derwent Hldgs	353p (+15p)
Wassall	287p (+10p)
Oxford Inst	475p (+15p)
Regent Inns	995p (+31p)
Hammerson	356p (+11p)
Brake Bros	670p (+19p)
ICI	942p (+14p)
Admiral	988p (+15p)
JD Wetherspoon	782p (+19p)
Ocean Group	418p (+10p)

FALLS:

Telspec	693p (-117p)
Babcock	129p (-10p)
Wace	256p (-17p)
Man Utd	251p (-12p)
Filtronic Com	385p (-18p)
Kenwood App	256p (-9p)
Woodside	348p (-9p)
Tibbet & Britn	443p (-10p)
Nat Aust Bk	589p (-11p)
Stand Chart	602p (-10p)
London Clubs	510p (-8p)
HSBC	990p (-15p)
Unitech	868p (-10p)
Whitbread	893p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Wassall on a high wire

WITH HANSON on the operating table waiting for the surgeon's knife and BTR in the recovery room, the small but perfectly formed Wassall is left with the job of carrying the can for conglomerates. Luckily, Wassall is shouldering its burden with ease and rapidly overtaking the growth rate of more fashionable companies. Theorists who point to the dull performance of the sector and label conglomerates a busted flush will have a hard time explaining how Wassall has increased earnings by 30 per cent.

Size makes a difference; acquisitions can have a big effect on smaller companies while the lack of synergy in large diversified industrial groups becomes an issue as earnings growth slows. Wassall is not just driven by acquisitions; it is investing heavily in General Cable, its copper wire business, which doubled profits last year with the benefit of high copper prices and contracts with telephone companies.

Profits growth will be slower this year but cashflow should improve as the price of copper falls, reducing stockholding costs. Wassall is also making good money from another dull-sounding business: plastic bottle tops, which are taking over from traditional metal closures.

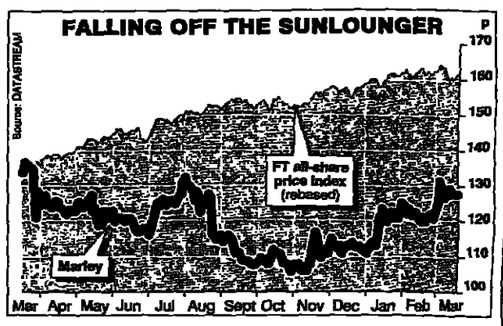
Late last year, Wassall laid down a marker for the future, buying 70 per cent of an obscure quoted axle manufacturer in Singapore. The business is largely irrelevant but Wassall now has an acquisition vehicle in Asia, which can issue (highly rated) shares. However, in the UK, Wassall shares continue to tread water despite earnings growth forecasts of 20 per cent. Something is wrong.

Marley

MARLEY'S decision to ditch its automotive division looks sensible. Were it to have struggled on, Marley would have gradually been edged out of the market by bigger rivals. A business producing plastic trim for motor cars makes little sense in a building products group. Moreover, in a world where car manufacturers are seeking to single-source components on a worldwide basis, Marley's future as a second-line supplier looked grim.

Unfortunately, having rid itself of a business with poor prospects, Marley's newest investment performed even less well last year. Syroco, which makes plastic garden furniture, generated £400,000 over nine months, an alarming result when compared with the purchase price of £100 million. According to Marley, everything conspired against Syroco: a huge increase in plastic resin prices, which make up half the product's cost, could not be passed on to buyers, while poor weather in the US depressed demand for sunloungers.

Marley has landed itself with another non-core business and one with low quality earnings. Moulded plastic furniture is a sector with few barriers to entry, leaving it extremely unlikely that Marley will earn anything like a 15 per cent return on investment. That suggests that investors are unlikely to see much return either. Even if building products see a recovery, there are better shares to buy.



Flextech

TO THE average stock market investor, Flextech is an incomprehensible jumble. It boasts three leading shareholders, all of them American, and interests in 14 broadcast channels, ranging from the Playboy TV to the Parliamentary Channel, each with levels of ownership that seem to change weekly as new partners are brought in and others ejected. It is easy to dismiss Roger Luard, the boss, as addicted to deals.

That would be a mistake, as there is method in his madness. Introducing big-name partners, such as Telecommunications Inc, Pearson and Fox Television, as investors in the channels helps to ensure a steady supply of programming. Flextech, by dint of having so many channels, now controls a good number of cable and satellite distribution routes. As a result, there is a good chance that anyone seeking a broadcast outlet in Britain will have to knock on Flextech's door. Finally, with so many channels in its portfolio, Flextech can negotiate favourable block distribution agreements for itself. The company has never earned a penny and probably will not see a profit for some time. But the mess that was Flextech is beginning to present intriguing possibilities.

Harrisons & Crosfield

PIGS and paint might not seem to have a lot in common but Harrisons & Crosfield has created a business that relies on very different markets. The company has indulged in a touch of fashionable focussing, announcing yesterday the spin-off its plantation interests. But in many ways Harrisons remains a rare example of an unreconstructed conglomerate.

In such a complex business bad news in one division tends to knock the share price hard, witness the bumpy ride Harrisons' shares suffered over the past year. With so many cyclical businesses it is inevitable that at least one will come a cropper in a trading year. Yesterday it was the poor performance of the timber and building division, coupled with a fairly cautious trading statement, which brought a halt to the recent price rally.

Harrisons runs its businesses well, as the strong performance from chemicals and foods demonstrates, and the company has worked hard to remove cost increases in its timber and building division. But much of the profit improvement came from freakish palm oil prices, which will not be repeated this year. Acquisitions may help, but market estimates suggest a meagre 5 per cent profit increase this year, not enough to justify a better rating, given the volatile record.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	980-985	May	979-978
May	892-891	Jul	unq
Jul	913-912	Sep	--
Sep	932-931	Dec	--
Dec	943-942		
Mar	964-963	Volume: 6359	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2055-2040	Nov	1791-1790
May	1907-1906	Jan	1771-1770
Jul	1840-1839	Mar	1745-1735
Sep	1815-1813	Volume: 2696	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	322.0-25.0
Spot: 408.5		Mar	321.5-17.5
May	398.4-97.1	May	318.3-13.1
Aug	373.9-73.0	Aug	unq
Oct	337.0-36.5	Volume: 1719	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	107.06	155.91	119.12
(+/-)	+0.59	+17.19	+1.83
Eng/Wales:	106.95	156.17	118.34
(+/-)	+0.22	+15.94	+1.88
(%)	+14.0	+7.0	+16.0
Scotland:	108.18	154.73	122.14
(+/-)	+3.81	+20.90	+1.85
(%)	-11.0	-23.0	+8.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.65	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.10	+0.35
Brent 15 day (May)	18.10	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	21.20	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.85	+0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B: 199 (+4)	C: 200 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	196 (+7)	198 (+5)
Non EEC 1H Apr	189 (+5)	191 (+5)
Non EEC 1H May	173 (+3)	175 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	108 (n/c)	110 (n/c)
Naphtha	172 (+1)	175 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Apr	184.00-84.25	Jul	156.50-56.75
May	168.75-69.00	Aug	156.75-57.00
Jun	161.00-61.25	Vol: 30416	

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.07-19.08	Aug	17.05 SLR
Jun	18.08-18.10	Sep	n/a
Jul	17.38 BID	Vol: 36130	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	119.20	Mar	109.25
May	120.90	May	109.15
Jul	122.75	Sep	105.95
Sep	110.00	Nov	108.00
Nov	111.45	Jan	110.00
Volume: 361		Volume: 81	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	155.0	157.5
May	161.0	163.0
Jun	unq	225.0
	Volume: 188	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)
Apr 104.75-105.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1454	1440	1443
Apr 96	1535	1520	1530
May 96	1475	1470	1472
Jul 96	1350	1325	1325
Vol: 282 lots		Open interest: 5300	
	Index 1408 +12		

(Official) (Volume prev day) — LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2536.0-2538.0	2533.0-2534.0	1747100
Lead ($/tonne)	900.00-902.00	807.00-808.00	555025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1072.0-1073.0	1096.0-1096.5	430250
Tin ($/tonne)	6310.0-6320.0	6340.0-6350.0	31965
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1611.0-1611.5	1642.0-1643.0	1691250
Nickel ($/tonne)	8180.0-8190.0	8285.0-8290.0	119484

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Allied Dom	460	41	46½	55½	0½	8	12
(*497½)	500	12½	21	33½	11	26	29½
Argyll	300	17	24	28½	2½	11	15½
(*317½)	330	3	9	14½	18	28½	32
ASDA	100	b	9½	12½	1½	3½	6
(*104½)	110	1	5	8	6½	9	11
Boots	600	14½	27	35½	10	25½	31½
(*601)	650	1	8½	17	49	60	64
Br Airways	500	27½	38	45	4	15	20½
(*523)	550	5	13	21½	29½	41½	47½
BP	550	22	34	43½	6½	15	20½
(*556½)	600	2½	11½	20½	35	47½	52½
Br Steel	180	20	23½	25	0½	5½	7½
(*198½)	200	b	11	13½	6½	15	17
C & W	460	37½	48	59	4	15½	20½
(*490½)	500	14	28½	40	18	33	40
CU	550	25½	52	58½	2½	10	18½
(*581)	600	7	23½	31½	23	32½	43
ICI	900	52½	76½	89	6	18	29½
(*943½)	950	19½	46	60	23	36½	51
Kingfisher	500	38½	44½	54½	4	13	18½
(*536)	550	b	18	22½	29½	32½	43
Land Sec	600	23½	32	38½	3	17	21
(*618½)	650	1½	8½	14½	32	50	52½
M & S	420	14	22	28½	4½	14½	18½
(*427½)	460	1	b	12	32½	40½	43
Nat West	600	44½	54½	71½	3	12½	21
(*639)	650	12½	35	43½	20	32½	42½
Sainsbury	360	21	26	32½	2	10	13½
(*377)	390	4	10½	18	15½	26½	29½
Shell	850	15	25½	36	22	31	39
(*857½)	900	0½	8	16½	66½	68	72
Smkl Bch	650	21½	38½	50½	13½	25	33
(*654)	700	5	17½	28	47½	55	61½
Storehse	330	10	20½	27	6	15	19
(*333½)	360	1	8	14	27	33	36
Trafalgar	450	4	4	4	0	0	0
(*468)	50	0½	0½	0½	1½	1½	1½
Unilever	1250	20	39½	58½	32½	43	49½
(*1250	1300	4	21½	37	74½	78½	82½
Zeneca	1300	60½	107	125½	15	36	51½
(*1342½)	1350	31	78½	98½	35	60½	73½

	Series	Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
Grand Met	420	22	30½	39	9	18	23½
(*428½)	460	b	13	21	33½	41	46
LaBroke	180	16½	25	27½	7	11½	15
(*188)	200	8½	16	18½	18	22	25½
Utd Biscs	240	12½	21½	26	8	12½	16½
(*248½)	260	5½	13	18½	21	24	28

	Series	Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
BAA	500	40½	48½	57	0½	7	11½
(*517½)	550	b	18½	28	17	28	32½
Thames W	550	17½	28	34½	7	25	28½
(*557½)	600	1½	8½	15	42½	60	62½

	Series	Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	39	51½	56½	5½	16½	20
(*488)	500	16	29½	35½	22½	36	39½
BTR	330	7	14½	18	12	16	21½
(*331)	360	0½	5	7½	28	30½	41½
Br Aero	850	46	74	89½	18½	33	42½
(*872½)	900	21	48	63	44½	57½	66
Br Telecm	330	22½	31	32½	3½	11½	15
(*345)	360	7	14½	17	18	28	31
Cadbury	500	22½	42	50	11	17	24
(*513)	550	7	20½	26½	40	45	50½
Guinness	460	18	29½	35½	13½	19	24
(*472)	500	5½	13	18	41½	44	47½
GEC	360	14	30½	28½	8½	19	22
(*343)	390	3½	8½	13½	39½	39	41
Hanson	180	13	16½	20	3	6	10
(*189½)	200	3	7½	11	13	17	21
LASMO	180	16	22	25½	7	9	11½
(*187)	200	8	13	16½	17	19½	22½
Lucas	300	10	17	20	7½	11½	15½
(*302)	220	3	8½	11½	21	23½	27½
Pilkington	210	12	18½	–	5	11	–
(*215)	229	4	9½	–	16	22	–
Prudential	420	28½	39½	45½	8½	16	22½
(*447)	460	8	19½	26½	31	37½	43½
Redland	390	30	35	40½	10	16½	21
(*413½)	420	12½	19½	26	26	32	36½
R-Royce	200	19½	25	29½	3½	7½	9½
(*217)	220	8	14	19	12	16½	19
Tesco	280	10	16½	20½	11	15	20½
(*282)	300	3	8½	13	25½	28	32½
Vodafone	340	14	21½	28	8	15½	18½
(*244½)	260	5½	13	18½	19½	26½	29½
Williams	300	19	21½	24	0	8½	12½
(*314)	330	4	7½	10½	26	27	30

FT-SE INDEX (*3668½)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Apr	144	103	68	41	21	9½
May	163	126	95½	67½	45	28½
Jun	184	149	117	88	63½	44
Jul	203	169½	138½	110	86½	64½
Dec	–	235	–	179	–	130
Puts						
Apr	15	26	42	65½	96½	132
May	33½	48½	64½	87½	115	149½
Jun	51	65½	83½	104	129½	161
Jul	56½	73½	92	114½	141	170½
Dec	–	118½	–	162	–	213½

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	550	11	35	45½	0	15½	25½
(*561)	600	0	13	23	39	45	53½
Amstrad	180	10½	20	26	0	7	11½
(*190½)	200	0	10	16	9½	16½	20½
Barclays	700	23½	46½	59½	0	15½	26½
(*721½)	750	0	21	34	26½	40½	51½
Blue Circ	330	10½	19	26	0	14	20
(*340½)	360	0	7	13½	19½	33½	37½
Br Gas	220	10	15½	17½	0	8½	11½
(*233)	240	0	5	8½	10	21	23
Dixons	460	10	30	39½	0	15½	24½
(*470)	500	0	12	21½	30	38½	46½
Foyle	313	37½	38	41½	0	0	1
(*350½)	343	7½	13	17	0	3	6
Tesmac	110	9	12	15½	0	4½	7
(*119)	120	0	6½	10½	1	9	12
Hillsdwn	180	2½	8	10½	0	10	15
(*182½)	200	0	1½	4½	17½	26	27½
Lonrho	200	7½	17	21	0	0	10
(*207½)	220	0	7	11½	12½	17	20½
Sears	90	9½	12	13	0	1½	3½
(*99½)	100	0	6	7½	0½	6	8
Thorn	1600	36	91	120	0	33½	63
(*1636)	1700	0	42½	70	64	89½	116
Tomkins	240	16	23½	27½	0	3½	8
(*256)	260	6	15½	19½	4	10½	17½
Lloyds TSB	292	14	29½	–	0	9½	–
(*311)	322	0	13	–	11	19	–

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	900	25	49	65½	14½	28½	42
(*926½)	850	8½	26	42	48½	56½	69½
HSBC	950	44½	69	88	17	37½	51½
(*982½)	1000	13	44½	63½	45	62½	77
Reuter	650	53½	72½	85	2½	12½	20½
(*698)	700	19½	41	55½	17	31½	40½

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	13½	26½	33½	8	17½	23½
(*393)	390	4	14	20	28	34½	40½

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Puts Mar	Jun
Pisons	260	5	5	0	0½
(*265)	280	0	0	15	15½

	Series	Calls May	Puts May
Eastn Gp	950	34	0½
(*975)	1000	2½	25

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	16	32	36½	0	14	20
(*476)	500	0	13	17	34	38	42½
Scot Pwr	360	0	16½	24	0	11	19
(*360)	390	0	6½	11½	30	31	38½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jun 96	3675.0	3705.0	3671.0	3685.0	11079
Previous open interest: 65191	Sep 96				3701.0	0
FT-SE 250	Jun 96				4278.0	0
Previous open interest: 3422	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.87	93.90	93.87	93.88	13302
Previous open interest: 364445	Jun 96	93.92	93.96	93.88	93.95	26001
	Sep 96	93.69	93.72	93.65	93.75	18249
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96					
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 96	96.71	96.73	96.66	96.72	37613
Previous open interest: 106932	Sep 96	96.51	96.58	96.42	96.57	49319
Long Gilt	Mar 96	105-16	106-08	105-12	106-08	1778
Previous open interest: 118889	Jun 96	104-22	105-15	104-12	105-10	65491
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.40	118.52	118.38	118.45	600
	Sep 96	117.30	117.30	117.30	117.31	41
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 96	95.20	95.94	94.81	95.80	230822
Previous open interest: 229940	Sep 96	94.41	94.41	94.20	94.95	19
Three month ECU	Jun 96	95.41	95.43	95.38	95.41	1187
Previous open interest: 20812	Sep 96	95.29	95.35	95.24	95.32	1019
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 96	98.18	98.22	98.15	98.18	5816
Previous open interest: 53014	Sep 96	97.95	98.04	97.95	98.03	1452
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 96	108.49	109.20	108.20	109.15	39190
Previous open interest: 50703	Sep 96	107.80	107.80	107.80	108.60	7

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5 11/16
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅛; 3 mth 5 5/16. Sell: 2 mth 5 3/16; 3 mth: 5 5/16.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5 5/16-5⅛	5 5/16-5 3/16	5⅛-5 1/16	5 1/16-5	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Overnight: open 5⅛, close 5⅛.					
Local Authority Deps:	5 11/16	n/a	6	6	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	5 11/16-5 9/16	6-5 11/16	6-5 11/16	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.34	n/a	5.36	5.40	5.64
Building Society CDs:	6-5 11/16	6-5 11/16	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-5 11/16	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 3/16-4 15/16	5 1/16-5	5 1/16-5	5 1/16-5	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3 1/16-3	3 1/

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Scott faces the chop

THE Labour-run Edinburgh Council confirmed yesterday it is exploring the possibility of selling the famous Sir Walter Scott monument on Princes Street — not least because an estimate for complete renovation has been put at more than £2.5 million.

Sponsorship is one option but the initial reaction from Scottish companies was mixed. There was a thumbs down from Baxter's and a lukewarm response from the department store Jenners, which uses the monument in its promotional material. But Macsween's, Edinburgh's renowned manufacturer of haggis, was more positive. "Perhaps a fund-raising dinner would be an idea," said marketing director Jo Macsween. "We'd be happy to provide free haggis."

Nuclear fall-out

KWIK-FIT, Europe's largest independent auto motive parts repair and replacement specialist, came swiftly to the rescue after it received a desperate call from the staff of a nuclear submarine based in Plymouth docks earlier this year. The submarine, declared unfit to continue on its tour of duty, because mariners kept falling out of their bunks in rough seas, put in an urgent request for 66 car safety belts.

Dynamic duo

BOOTIFUL Bernard Matthews is looking forward to spending Easter in his holiday house near St Tropez. Along with a leg of lamb, the birdman of Norfolk is packing Tom Pocock's biography of Horatio Nelson. "There are only two famous persons in Norfolk — and I'm one of them," he chuckles.



"Sell BT — buy Oftel"

EMU fan

When CarnaudMetal Box was taken over by Crown Cork & Seal, the American firm, last month, to become the world's largest packing company, some investors in the company sold their shares. They had to wait up to three weeks for the cash. Cheques made out in francs seemed to travel around Europe before being paid. Roll on the single currency said one shareholder who received his cheque yesterday and tried to work out what he had lost in interest and exchange rates.

Double trouble

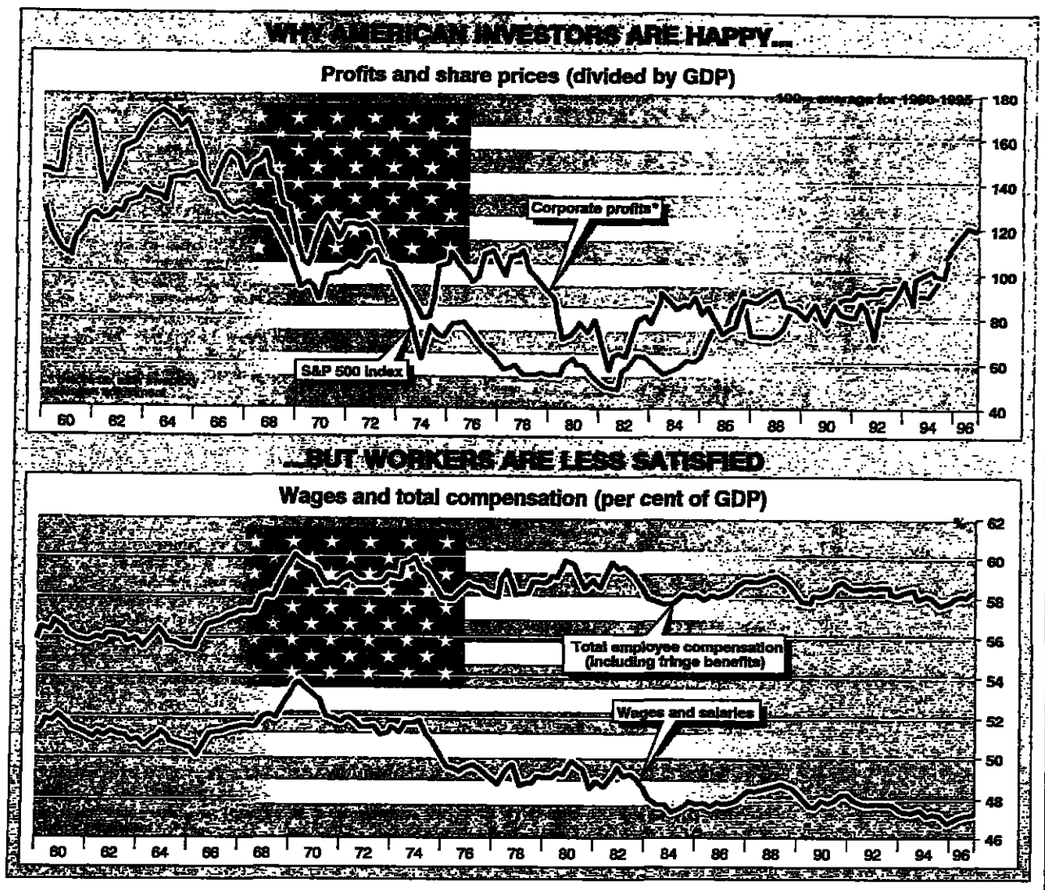
LLOYD'S names suffered another blow yesterday. A company specialising in financial planning has put a surcharge on the hapless names. Lyndon Wealthcare, a service provided by Lyndon Investments, a wholly owned subsidiary of the West Country chartered accountant Robson Taylor, is charging an extra £40 a month for its subscription-based service "because of the complexity of their personal affairs".

THE largest ever trade mission to Pakistan next week could be accused of poppadoms to Lahore. Among the 65 companies taking part on the trip, which is to be led by Trade Minister Lord Fraser, is Derby-based Khan Foods, the manufacturers of "authentic" Indian nosh.

ECONOMIC VIEW  ANATOLE KALETSKY

American capitalism has defeated 'peasants' revolt

US remained a land of opportunity even during the decades of misery



The "peasants' revolt" against America's capitalist values seems to have fizzled out almost before it started. Perhaps Pat Buchanan, the far-right presidential candidate who likened his supporters to "peasants with pitchforks" descending upon the overpaid "corporate job-killers", should have read up in his history books about the fate of Wat Tyler at Smithfield.

Be that as it may, after all the alarums about ungovernability and the breakdown of the capitalist ideological consensus, America is now almost certain to be presented with an eminently civilised choice between two of the most centrist presidential candidates ever selected by the Republican and Democratic parties. It is perhaps no coincidence that Wall Street has reverted to its tedious habit of hitting a new all-time high every other day.

The collapse of the "Buchanan factor" raises fascinating questions for politicians and economists, as well as stock-market investors. Is it possible, for example, that commentators have exaggerated America's crisis of confidence and the pain of the "new insecurity" created by corporate restructuring and free trade? Is it conceivable that American workers are not as angry about falling industrial wages and growing income inequality as everyone had assumed? Could it be that company profits will go on growing in relation to national income, as they have done with only brief cyclical interruptions since 1981?

These questions are of interest not only to Americans, but also to Europeans. Declining living standards, psychological insecurity and political disintegration are seen in Europe as the fatal flaws in America's remarkable record for creating jobs, or McJobs as European cynics prefer to call them. But if Americans are not really horrified by the state of their society — if, indeed, Americans are more optimistic about America than many Europeans are about Europe — then that deals with one of the main objections to the American economic model of flexible labour markets and active demand management to sustain full employment.

The question about the share of profits in national income may seem more narrowly financial but is also of huge political significance. If it is true — as many commentators, including Americans, believe — that the share of profits in national income has now hit an unsustainable cyclical peak, then the present rebound in the US economy will soon fizzle out in a struggle between labour and capital, a burst of inflation, a tightening of monetary policy and another recession. And if this happens in America, the rest of the world will almost certainly follow it into recession within the next few years.

If, on the other hand, the rise in US profits and the willingness of American workers to limit their share of national income is part of a long-term secular trend, then the present business cycle could have many more years to go before it runs into a serious problem of inflation and rising interest rates. Eventually, of course, there will be a recession, since aggregate demand and supply can never run perfectly in balance. But the next recession may prove an unusually mild one — and America's unemployment rate may fall well below today's already low level of 5.7 per cent, before the Government and the Federal Reserve Board decide they must put on the brakes. This argument can be summarised in another question, which in a sense encompasses all the others:

Could it be that the recent surge of job creation, investment and profitability in America will not prove an aberration? Could it be that the flexibility and openness of America's markets, along with the pragmatism and skill of its monetary policymakers, have created the conditions for another long era of non-inflationary growth similar to the Keynesian golden age of the 1950s and 1960s?

Clearly it is impossible to answer such huge questions in a single article (or, in fact, to answer them with confidence at all). But suspecting, as I long have, that the late 1990s are indeed quite like the 1950s, I will just make some observations that are frequently overlooked, especially in cynical Europe. The first two are obvious from the charts. Corporate profits have risen sharply since the 1982 recession which marked the climax of the worldwide economic crises of the 1970s, but profits are still quite moderate by the standards of the pre-1970 "golden age". In fact, in the fourth quarter of 1995, the national accounts measure of corporate profits as a share of GDP was very close to the 1960-95 average (represented as 100 in the chart). Even assuming that profits grew by a further 15 to 20 per cent this year, America's profit share would be in the lower half of the range that prevailed in the 1960s. There seems no reason to suppose that this profit share of between 9 and 10 per cent of GDP will be unsustainable.

Looking at the lower chart suggests some reasons for such optimism. While it is true that

> "The next recession may prove an unusually mild one"

the share of wages and salaries in US national income has fallen sharply since 1970, there are several consolations for American workers.

First there is the widening gap between the two lines in this chart. The lower line, which represents cash wages and salaries has been falling. But the upper line, which takes into account non-cash compensation, including pension contributions and health insurance costs, has remained fairly stable since the late 1960s and is still somewhat higher than it was until 1966. Much of the apparent fall in US wages simply reflects the sharp rise in non-wage employment costs, above all on health care.

Health spending now absorbs 13 per cent of America's GDP and more than a third of this is financed by employers' insurance payments. To a large extent, therefore, the disappointing growth in American workers' living standards can be blamed simply on the spiralling cost of America's astonishingly inefficient insurance-based private health system (which some Tories are so anxious to imitate). If America had a national health service as efficient as Britain's, its workers could have received 6 per cent more of GDP in wages — equivalent to a real pay increase of 13 per cent, taking the wage share of GDP well above its 1970 peak.

The charts also shows that the big decline in the wage share occurred after 1970 and was over by 1982. It is true, of course, that 28 million more Americans are working now than in the 1980s so that wages per worker have continued to lag behind the growth of GDP.

I do not believe for a moment in the monetarist or "classical" theory of the labour market, which insists that lower wages are a necessary and sufficient condition to restore full employment. But it is undeniable, simply as a matter of arithmetic, that if an economy creates jobs for growing numbers of relatively unskilled workers (including many millions of immigrants and women who were previously not in the labour market), then average real wages cannot grow as rapidly as GDP. This will be true particularly if the economic structure tries to preserve the shares of profits, rents, pensions and other forms of income.

This leads to a third consolation for American workers — and perhaps the most important reason why they are not as disgruntled as some of the crude statistics on real wages would imply. While average real wages have indeed fallen slightly and the distribution of income has dramatically widened, these statistics do not accurately reflect what has happened to individual Americans. The poor may be getting poorer. A number of recent studies tracking the incomes of individual households have shown that most poor Americans move up the income distribution quite rapidly as soon as they find work. For example, a study recently published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas looked at American families who were among the poorest 20 per cent of the income distribution in 1971. It found that only 5.1 per cent of these people were still among the poorest 16 years later. In fact, two thirds of these people had graduated into the top half of income distribution by 1991.

America, it seems, remained a land of opportunity even during the miserable 1970s and 1980s. I suspect it could do a great deal better in the years ahead.

Potent products that lost their pulling power

Martin Waller mourns the passing of

Seventies items now branded as failures

It is a Saturday evening in the early 1970s. The scene is a teenage party. In the living room, Slade bellow and couples twitch and grope. On the kitchen table are two bottles of Hirondelle, one almost empty, a Party Seven, opened, a Party Four, unopened, and a scattering of cans of Colt 45 and Double Diamond.

Now it is the 1990s. Many of the couples have teenage gropers of their own. Slade are somewhere on the revival circuit, but none of the drinks has managed the same degree of longevity.

Hirondelle was a bland and blended wine, and Party Fours and Sevens were undistinguished gassy cans of bitter so named for the number of pints they contained. Double Diamond was a keg bitter, quite dreadful but still available in a few places. Colt 45 was probably some kind of beer, although it would have taken a forensic scientist to prove it.

There is nothing quite so nostalgic, or so dispiriting, as those products we knew from our youth, and their associated catch-phrases and jingles, now gone the way of the hula hoop and the Rubix Cube.

> Brands that try to be all things to everybody are hard to sustain

Babycham's catch-phrase became its curse. Order it at the public bar and a wit would mimic "I'd la-a-ave a Babycham" in a false Essex Girl accent. The demise of the keg bitter, Red Barrel, was hastened by five minutes of well-aimed sadism from the Monty Python team — "... and their Watney's Red Barrel."

Paul Stobart at Interbrand, a specialist consultancy, thinks that properties such as Double Diamond may not be worthless. "There are a whole range of perceptions of Double Diamond — you can see the logo, you can still hear the jingle," he says. "It is about understanding the brand and how it ought to be positioned to its target market. Brands that try to be all things to everybody are very hard to sustain."

The demise of Red Barrel and Babycham came well before accountants allowed companies to take brands on to balance sheets, therefore assuring shareholders that such intangible assets had some assessable worth in the real world. The inevitable lesson to be drawn is that some of the brands with firm values now will become worthless.

Andy Nash, managing director of Matthew Clark Taunton, one of the drinks industry's biggest distributors, insists: "Experience tells us that a strong, well-entrenched brand should be there for the long haul if it's managed very carefully." He points to the Chicago Business School study that showed the leading brand names of the 1920s were still around 60 years later.

But it is in the so-called B brands, the middle layer that are neither cheap and cheerful nor, to echo a successful campaign of recent years, "reassuringly expensive", that the real slaughter has taken place. They have been killed by the big supermarkets, which find shelf space for the brand leaders and for their own-label products. There is no space for also-rans.

David Scotland, president for Europe at Allied Domecq's spirits and wine business, which owns Canadian Club and Ballantine's whiskies, is scathing about his industry's reliance on names that have lost their lustre: "People in my industry could have a pretty comfortable life because B brands were still selling."

Allied is having success selling Scotch to young consumers in Spain and Sweden, who are turning against their parents' tipple. But in Britain, Scotch drinking is in managed decline, consumption falling at about 2 per cent a year, in spite of the growing popularity of expensive single malts. The culprit, says Mr Scotland, is the industry's reliance on its traditional tartan image. "Scottish values are not going to make whisky interesting to young people."

On the Continent, wine drinking is falling in France and Italy, increasingly replaced by imported spirits. In France, Pernod is in decline; in Germany, schnapps is less favoured. Even in Russia the emerging properous classes are turning their backs on vodka — and Russian society once ran on vodka just as teenage parties were fuelled by Double Diamond.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Simplification of law on small businesses is overdue

From Mr Des Keenan

Sir, It would be a pity if Mr Heseltine's excellent proposals regarding the simplification of law concerning small businesses were to be drowned by waves of synthetic outrage from interested parties.

A careful look at the accumulated "rights of labour" and the corresponding "duties of employers" is long overdue.

About 1870 the traditional "master and servant" legislation with all its feudal overtones was swept away, and replaced by "employer and employee" legislation based on the simple contract.

But in fact the simple contract agreed by both parties, and terminable by both parties according to the term of the contract, was not put in force, or not for long. Shops Acts, Factory Acts, Workers' Compensation Acts and Employers' Liability Acts, Employment of Children Acts, Workers' Insurance Acts, PAYE Acts, and VAT Acts were added (not to mention decisions of various European courts). Other workers' "rights" such as a "right" to redundancy compensation even for hourly workers and members of the Armed Services crept in.

It was of course always the aim of organised labour and its parliamentary representatives to screw as much cash and benefits from the bosses as possible. The employers too could offer inducements. We end up with a mass of legislation, and of customary practice.

Who should pay for toilets for the workers? Who for staff canteens? Who for protective gear? Who for wet-weather gear? Who for illness? Who for maternity? When should the state pay? When should the employer? Can an hourly-paid worker be unfairly dismissed? Should every employer have a little booklet stating the terms of contract and employment and be obliged to give a copy of this to every employee, even to those sent round just to gather the potatoes? Do these laws and practices create "rights"? Are these rights enforceable in the European Court of Human Rights? If they are only created by statute can they be removed by statute?

I am a self-employed person. I make an agreement with my customers/employers regarding price. I do the job; he pays me. If I don't like the job, I don't do it. I rather fancy this is closer to the idea of the legislators in the 1870s than what we ended up with now.

Yours faithfully,
DES KEENAN,
129 Bluebird Walk,
Chalk Hill Road,
Wembley Park,
Middlesex.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Agreeing terms with Lloyd's

From R. N. Bowes

Sir, Your columns have recently contained a number of letters from members of Lloyd's dissatisfied with the progress towards settlement. It is unfortunate that a number of people have been severely damaged by their membership of Lloyd's, but I would not like your readers to think that many names will not support Lloyd's in their settlement suggestions. I suspect that the number in favour of settlement will constitute a large majority. It is unfortunate that the loudest noise is made by a relatively small number of people, many of whom are also fully capable of meeting their liabilities.

Yours faithfully,
R N BOWES,
Fairacre,
Enton,
Godalming,
Surrey.

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Strong rise in profits lifts shares in Wassall

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in Wassall, the diversified industrial company, climbed 10p to 287p after the company revealed a 32 per cent increase in full-year profits before exceptional items to £55.1 million, and predicted further progress this year.

Wassall was boosted by a strong performance from its General Cable subsidiary, where profits doubled to £36 million. But both DAP, the DIY business, and the closures division suffered from an increase in raw material prices.

The company said that following a decline in raw material prices this year it was confident of an improved performance from the two divisions.

Wassall was also optimistic about its 70 per cent interest in Singapore-listed Wassall Asia Pacific, which was acquired for £18.4 million in November, saying that it provided an exciting entry into the fast-growing Asian economies.

Underlying profit before tax and exceptional items, which excludes a £4.4 million profit from favourable copper prices, rose 42 per cent to £50.7 million. Overall, sales increased by more than 50 per cent to £970 million. The total dividend was raised by 34 per cent to 5.5p, with a final dividend of 3.95p (2.95p) payable on May 17.

Profits at DAP suffered from what the company described as the most difficult market conditions for five years, falling 23 per cent to £10.4 million. The closures division was also hit by a large increase in raw material prices and in spite of a growth in sales, profits were flat at £12.7 million.

Wassall finished the year with gearing at 29 per cent and interest cover at more than ten times. The company said that it would invest heavily this year and would also consider further acquisitions, but anticipated a reduction in borrowing over the year.

Wassall said that the profit increase at General Cable had resulted in the company meeting targets set when the subsidiary was bought in 1994, well ahead of schedule. Margins increased to 4.6 per cent while turnover grew by 90 per cent to £672 million, boosted by strong demand for low-voltage cable. Wassall added that it was confident of making further progress this year through a series of long-term contracts for low-voltage wire and strong demand for datacom wire.

The industrial and commercial division achieved a mixed performance, with profits growing from £0.9 million to £2.9 million, although the office furniture businesses suffered from a sluggish market.

Tempus, page 28

Turnround for Usborne

Usborne, the agricultural services group whose chairman is Lord Parkinson, has returned to profit.

The company earned £325,000 before tax in the half year to December 31, compared with losses of £438,000 previously. Earnings were 0.76p a share (1.97p loss). There is again no interim dividend.

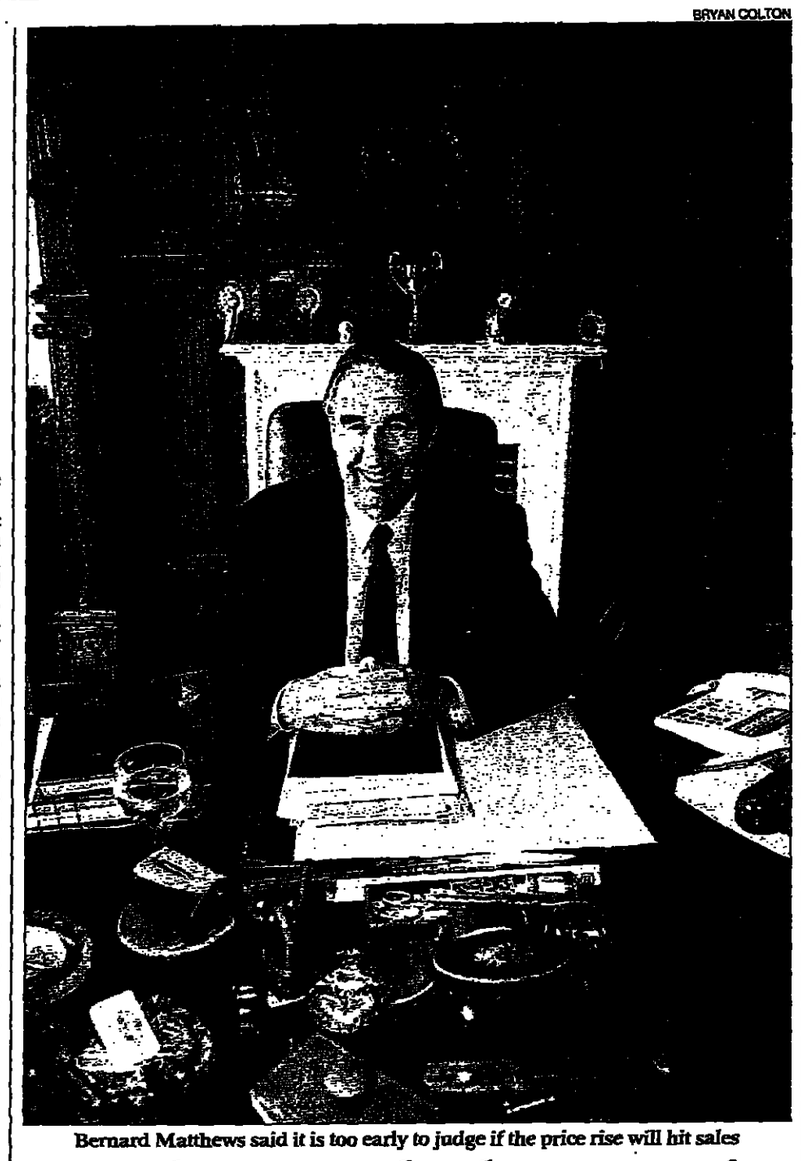
Brandon advance

Brandon Hire, the tool hire company based in Bristol, lifted 1995 pre-tax profits to £1.5 million (£716,000). Acquisitions contributed £352,000 to total operating profits of £1.8 million. Adjusted earnings rose to 8p a share from 4.8p. The total dividend rises to 2.25p a share from 1.7p.

Beauford ahead

Beauford, the ceramics and engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £2 million in 1995 on turnover up 23 per cent to £41.1 million. Adjusted earnings were 3.87p (3.82p) a share. There is a final dividend of 0.4p (0.25p).

BRYAN COLTON



Bernard Matthews said it is too early to judge if the price rise will hit sales

Matthews outlook uncertain

BERNARD MATTHEWS, the poultry and meat processing group, yesterday revealed it had raised prices for the first time in several years to counter the impact of sharply higher raw material costs (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The inability to predict the success in recovering the increased costs, together with start-up costs of two new factories, prompted the company to tell shareholders the outlook for the first half of 1996 was uncertain. Bernard Matthews, chairman, said: "After Christmas we increased prices by about 5 per cent overall. So far so good, but it is too early to say what the impact will be on sales."

The news came as the company revealed static pre-tax profits of £18.7 million on sales up 6.5 per cent at £302 million in the year to December 31. A 2p final makes a 3.39p total year's dividend, up from 3.14p, payable on May 3.

Rethink on joint venture accounts

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

THE Accounting Standards Board has bowed to business opinion and abandoned a proposal to treat associate companies and joint ventures as a single category of strategic alliance. Instead, the board has introduced two new concepts of joint ventures, according to whether the venture operates as a single concern, or is just an umbrella body for partner companies' interests.

Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said that joint ventures were becoming much more common and companies had not previously had clear accounting rules to deal with them.

Proposals in an early discussion paper, which called for much more detailed disclosure of the results of associates have also been scaled back to ease potential burdens on business. The board now asks only for aggregate figures.

Companies will, however, no longer have such scope to massage their accounts. Under FRED 11, the draft for a new accounting standard on associates and joint ventures, definitions of associates will be tightened up.

The board aims to ensure that a company can only account its share of profits in future if it exercises significant permanent influence as well as controlling a fifth of a supposed associate company.

The proposals will make life easier for venture capital companies. Joint ventures will normally be equity accounted. But if the operations and assets of each company in the joint venture are essentially separate, their interest will be consolidated in their own accounts, as if it were part of their business. The board is asking for comments on its exposure draft by June 28.

Pennington, page 27

European recovery lifts Blenheim

RECOVERY in the UK, France and Germany helped Blenheim, the exhibition organiser, to a 17.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £35.6 million last year (Patricia Tehan writes).

France was the biggest profit contributor, with an increase of 46 per cent to £14.3 million. UK profits rose 50 per cent to £7.2 million and in Germany there was a 55 per cent rise to £6.2 million. All three benefited from cost-cutting and restructuring measures in 1994. The only black spot was the US where, said Neville Buch, the chairman, the company suffered from competitive pressures.

Mr Buch sounded a note of warning about prospects for the current year. He said the exhibition business tends to trail GDP by 12 or 18 months and "there are indications of a slowdown in GDP in France and Germany". Blenheim's profits were struck after charging £1.8 million in restructuring costs.

The dividend for the year has been increased from 10.35p to 10.5p, covered by earnings of 20.7p, up 38 per cent. Mr Buch said the firm was concentrating on having dividend cover of two times, in line with the sector. The final payment of 7p is due on July 5.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Results warning at Newman Tonks

NEWMAN TONKS, the architectural products supplier to the building industry, warned shareholders that the cost of further rationalisation implemented as a result of continuing poor UK trading conditions would have an adverse effect on first-half results. The company said that after the £30 million acquisition of Dor-O-Matic in February, America was its most profitable single market.

The company reported 1995 profits of £27.2 million before tax, which included an exceptional profit on disposals of £10.1 million. Profits in 1994 were £20.2 million. Earnings, excluding the exceptional profit, were down 20 per cent at 8.48p a share (10.65p). The total dividend rises to 6.9p a share from 6.75p, with a final 4p. The shares fell 5p to 120p. Christopher Hughes, chairman, said UK results were severely affected by a downturn in the market from the second quarter.

CRH expands in US

CRH, the building materials group, has acquired Jack B Parson, an American aggregates, asphalt and paving company based in Utah, for $87 million. Parson will become part of Oldcastle, CRH's US holding company. The enlarged group will have more than 100 operating locations in ten states. Annual output will include 18 million tonnes of aggregates; annual sales will be about $450 million. In 1995 Parson made profits of $15 million on sales of $109 million.

Keller increases payout

KELLER GROUP, the ground engineering specialist, lifted profits 19 per cent in 1995, relying almost entirely on organic growth. Profits were £11.2 million before tax (£9.4 million) while adjusted earnings rose to 11.7p (10.3p). The total dividend is increased 10 per cent to 5.3p, with a final foreign income dividend of 3.55p a share. The company said there was an excellent performance by North American operations while UK results improved against the trend in the construction industry.

Devro advances 7%

DEVRO INTERNATIONAL, the sausage skin maker, has unveiled a 7 per cent pre-tax profits rise to £31.2 million last year. The company said that, as of December 4 last year, Devro America had been treated as a discontinued business and the profit and loss account includes the results of that business up until then. Integration of Teepak in the US will cost £10 million, the company said. The dividend for the year is 7.7p (7.05p) with the final payment of 5.1p due on May 23.

Evans Halshaw flat

EVANS HALSHAW, the multifranchise motor distribution group, said the continuing downward trend in car purchasing by the retail sector still gave cause for concern, although the company was trading ahead of the market. Pre-tax profits were almost unchanged at £13.6 million (£13.5 million), despite a rise in turnover to £834.8 million (£668.7 million). Earnings were 28.8p a share (34.2p). The total dividend is 16.5p a share (15p), with a final of 11p, due on May 11.

Symonds buys for £11m

SYMONDS ENGINEERING is acquiring Zlin, a manufacturer of printed circuit boards, for £11.5 million. The acquisition is being funded through a placing and open offer of new shares, raising £11.5 million. New shares are being issued at 50p. Existing shares were suspended at 61p yesterday. Last year Zlin earned profits £1.98 million before tax on turnover of £6.7 million. Symonds has forecast profits before tax of not less than £1.4 million for the year to March 31.

ACCOUNTANCY

Future of the UK profession

It is time to recognise that the ideology of the Eighties was flawed, says **Noel Hepworth**



Noel Hepworth calls for trust to achieve co-operation

Just what is the future relationship to be between the different UK accountancy bodies? On the answer to that question will depend the future role of the accountancy club, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB). Mergers, given the latest failure between the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, are clearly off the agenda. The uniqueness of the British profession — its strength and diversity — therefore comes to the fore. Can it be maintained?

The ideology of the 1980s sought to teach us that success depends upon competition. The 1990s have started to show the significant flaws in that ideology. What emerged in the profession in the 1980s, accentuated by the recession in the 1990s, was full-bloodied competition between the accountancy bodies with the publicly unstated (but privately stated) aim of reducing the number of accountancy bodies by competitive action.

No wonder relationships between the bodies deteriorated and it became difficult to achieve any sort of agreement about the way forward. To adapt Clauswitz, negotiations became the pursuit of the removal of a competitor by other means. Has the profession recognised the flaws in that ideology?

If the accountancy bodies continue to follow the argument that competition produces the best decisions, then that will determine the role of the accountancy club. At best it will not be able to become more than a trade association, which will have no real function except that of any other trade association — to protect the collective interest.

The result will be that the individual bodies will continue to pour their own members' resources into the competitive fight with each other. Trust, which is so essential to collective action, will continue to diminish and the complaints about unfair competition and a lowering of standards will remain.

The CCAB will be in no position to manage relationships, or to encourage a general shift to higher standards, because agreement will only be possible if competitive positions are not affected. In practice, agreement will only occur on those issues that do not affect the ability of the bodies to compete for student numbers. The profession, as a result, risks becoming increasingly vulnerable to criticism. It will not be able to focus upon those issues which really do threaten it, from the alienation of members to a failure to measure up to the demands of the global economy.

If, however, the accountancy bodies were prepared to see that the future lies through co-operation and a profession that is strong and diversified, then the role of the accountancy club will be different.

To achieve co-operation requires a rebuilding of trust (always very hard to do and so easy to destroy). The role of the CCAB would then be to secure the active development of the profession as a whole, chivvying the weaker or recalcitrant to match the success of the best, or the profession as a whole to match the changing needs of the marketplace.

The role of the CCAB then is the management of the profession as a whole, including an ability to require member bodies to take remedial actions when appropriate. For that, all members need to have trust in its independent judgement.

None of this will be easy. It will mean sacrificing the sacred cow of competition on the altar of co-operation. It will mean rethinking the whole structure of the CCAB, because it would have a new managerial role.

We have experimented with competition within the profession. Can we not admit it has failed us? In the next few months the profession ought to address the implications.

It will not be easy because trust is lacking. But we should try. New institutions to manage the profession will cost a lot more money, as will proposals to reform regulation and the setting of auditing standards. Members will not want to pay because they see no benefit to them. Yet substituting co-operation for competition should work wonders for marketing budgets.

The reality is that the pessimistic scenario will emerge: cosmetic adjustments to relationships with no substantive shifts in position. How can trust be rebuilt in such circumstances?

Noel Hepworth is Director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa).

Forget the bonfire of regulations

MOST accountants in practice never advise or audit the ICIs of this world. And they wouldn't know what to do if they did. Instead, they look after the heartland of the economy — small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These are the start-ups, the family-owned companies, the owner-managed enterprises. Or they are known by their other generic name — trouble.

This is the world at which all the Government's many wars on red tape, its efforts to lift the burdens on business, are aimed. This is the world where, in the popular view, small companies are crippled by late-paying behemoths, brought low by stingy and uncaring banks, balked at every stage by unfair distribution systems and crippled by the bureaucracy and cost of being forced to have a statutory audit.

The truth tends to be the opposite, however uncomfortable it is for the myth of the beleaguered small business person. Two reports bear this out. The first, *The Failure of Owner-Managed Businesses*, was written by a team at Imperial College's management school and sponsored by BDO Stoy Hayward, and the English ICA's excellent research board. The second, published this week, *The 1996 Pulse Survey*, is by a team at the London Business School, sponsored by Binder Hamlyn. Both show that when SMEs complain that the world is against them, they are usually complaining about the wrong thing. "Too much bureaucracy is commonly held to be the reason why businesses with potential fail to grow," said Mary Reilly, of Binder Hamlyn. "But our research confirms that it is the directors' attitude towards growth that is crucially important. Without the right attitude, a business with everything going for it will often fail. Yet other businesses will succeed against all odds due to sheer determination."



ROBERT BRUCE

The report on failures produced even more interesting conclusions. Whereas the Binder Hamlyn report is based on businesses' opinions, the BDO Stoy Hayward report is based on the views of the bankers and accountants of failed small businesses. A two-thirds majority said that if remedial action had been taken over a variety of problems, the businesses would not have failed. The problems included "autocratic, inflexible owners making decisions based on emotion, who either failed to seek outside help or who resisted that which was offered", "a poor management team with insufficient experience, inappropriate mix of skills, or failure to delegate managerial responsibility", "poor operations management", "lack of family succession", and, most damning of all, "a weak business concept and a lack of planning".

The important point about all those reasons for failure is that none of them are technical. They are all human failings. The collapse of the businesses was not because of the wrong sort of overdraft or the wrong sort of accounting standard. It was simply because the senior management was not up to the job, or simply didn't do it. Binder's report backs this up. "Specifically, our research showed that company growth is more often determined by internal factors than by the external business environment," it said. The research found, for example, that "internal factors hostile towards growth (eg, lack of innovation, fear of diluting ownership, or aversion to debt) dominate external factors conducive to growth (eg, lack of market growth, availability of loans/overdrafts, or high labour costs); and internal factors conducive to growth tend to dominate external factors hostile towards it." In other words, companies that manage themselves successfully should have little to complain about which is not under their direct control. If a company is well-managed and those managers are working hard in a focused way then most problems will either be overcome or will not become problems in the first place. For example, the perennial complaint that banks never provide enough funding is dealt with deftly in Binder's report. "The availability of loans and overdrafts was inclined to be a minor constraint for high-growth companies and a major constraint for poorly performing ones," it said.

Peter Hemington, at BDO Stoy Hayward, put his finger unerringly on the same point. "It is interesting to note," he said, "that those managers who did ask for help were more likely to approach their banker than their accountant. This suggests that owner-managers believe additional funding will solve their problems whereas they should be looking at the more fundamental business issues."

So we should forget the fuss about burdens on business and bonfires of regulations. That has only to do with vote-gathering. The real burdens on business, as both of these reports show, are poor management and an insistence on blaming others for its consequences.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Whistle-blower true and fair

ON Saturday, 75,000 people are arguing about your every decision. On Monday morning, you are back sorting out a tax query or two. Welcome to the world of Eddie Murray, the Scots chartered accountant who made his international debut as a referee in last Saturday's England-Ireland rugby match at Twickenham. He enjoyed the game, "once I'd stopped shaking" and reported that "you can hardly hear yourself think" amid the roaring of the crowd. But as a partner in a small firm in Greenock on the Firth of Clyde it is quiet enough for the rest of his week. His first call as a referee was in 1981. "I was in the Greenock Wanderers bar and they said they were short of a referee and would I do it."

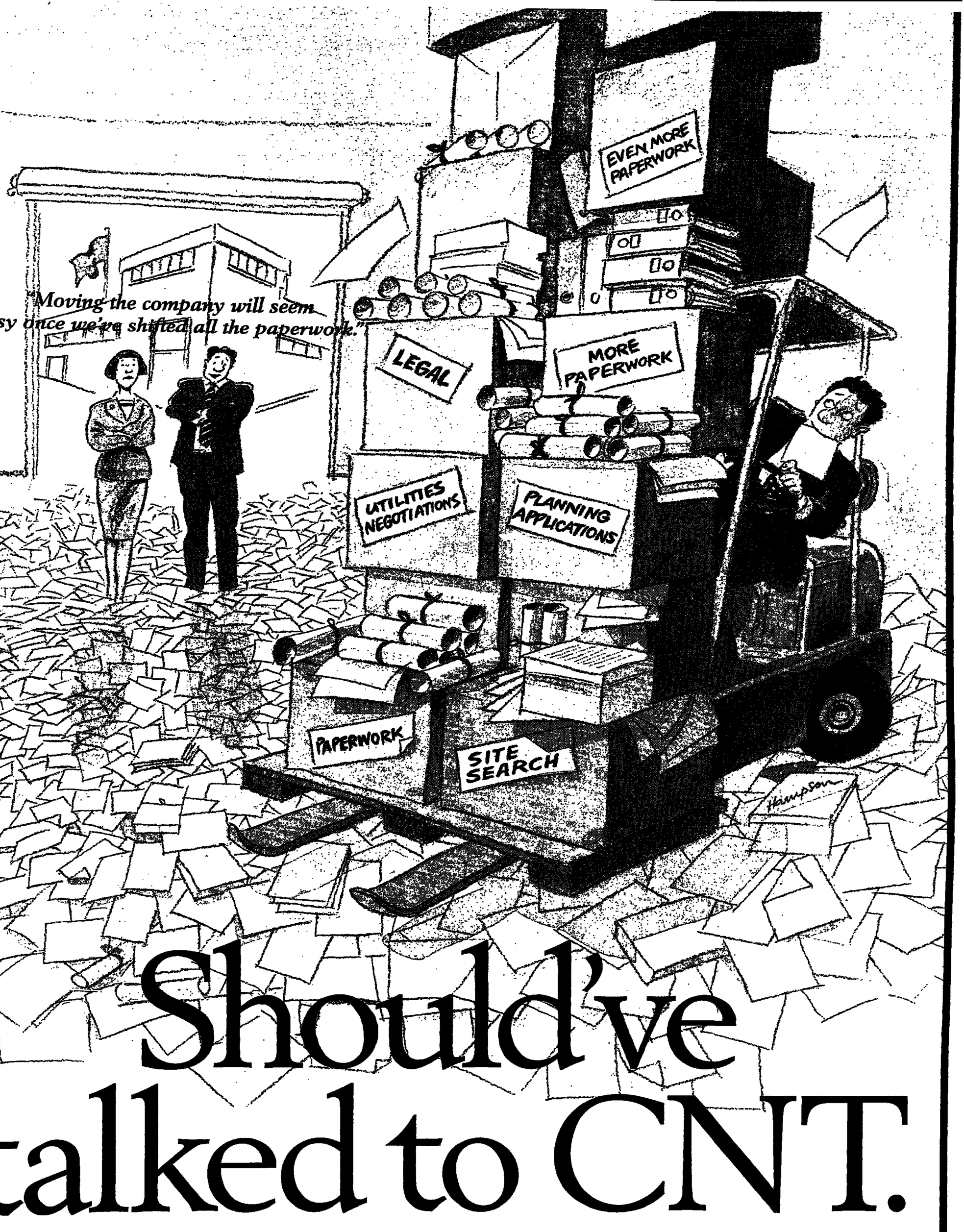
Win some...

SOMETIMES you can't win. Last Friday, the English ICA announced that it had become the first professional body to win an Investors in People award, the Government's training standard. But on the same day, an independent report said that the scheme was reckoned to be too complex, poorly marketed and bureaucratic. Just what members sometimes say of the institute.

Tail-ender

FOR the sedentary cricketer who prefers to get into trim for the summer season with a session on the Net — rather than in the nets — Coopers & Lybrand has provided some entertainment. As sponsor of the world cricket ratings, it is holding a ballot for the best player of the year. The nominations fail to include a single England player and the web address is longer than the names of the Sri Lankan team put together, but they promise to update the voting figures on the site. Vote by next Friday on http://www.coopers.co.uk/cricket ratings/competition/index.htm.

ROBERT BRUCE



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ABN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 763

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gradual Asset	208.20	220.30	- 1.00	0.92
Gradual Equity	272.10	288.40	- 1.00	1.88
Gradual Euro	266.20	281.70	- 0.20	0.56
Gradual Far East	131.20	138.00	..	4.99
Gradual Gilt	75.28	77.90	+ 0.05	5.91
Gradual Japan	173.00	183.10	- 0.60	..

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01200 553 231

General Acc	631.80	672.20[+]	- 0.50	2.68
General Inc	538.70	571.00[+]	- 0.50	2.68
UK Growth Acc	428.60	457.10	+ 0.10	2.84
UK Growth Inc	366.20	394.50	..	2.84
Higher Inc Acc	777.30	827.00	+ 1.80	4.23
Higher Inc Inc	432.50	460.20	+ 1.10	4.23
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	202.50	214.50[H]	+ 0.60	5.73
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.40	96.54[H]	+ 0.24	5.73
Nth America	364.40	387.70	- 0.70	..
Europe	344.10	366.10[+]	- 1.10	0.56
Brit Exempt	85.37	90.72	- 0.01	3.03
Brit Property Acc	113.10	120.40[+]	+ 0.40	4.86
Brit Property Inc	77.54	82.40[+]	+ 0.21	4.86
Global Opps	99.35	105.70	..	0.79
Balanced Acc	81.69	85.63	- 0.01	2.74
Balanced Inc	69.03	72.90	- 0.01	2.74
Japan Acc	46.33	49.50	- 0.21	..
Pac Basin Acc	415.10	441.70	- 3.50	0.79

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	126.90	134.60[+]	- 0.40	7.43
High Inc Equity	179.90	191.30	+ 0.30	4.48
Worldwide Bond	385.10	393.40[+]	- 1.10	4.61
American Growth	360.20	386.10	+ 1.10	0.73
Asian Pacific	341.10	364.80	- 0.10	0.72
Assets & Earnings	295.90	315.80	- 0.20	2.77
Euro Capital Acc	174.40	186.50	- 0.90	0.55
Euro Inc	44.10	46.91[+]	+ 0.02	8.57
General	268.50	286.70[+]	..	2.91
Global Opps	64.69	69.02	..	0.44
Japan	123.70	132.30	- 0.60	..
Managed Inc	47.49	50.52[+]	- 0.03	4.60
Mastertrust	162.30	173.60	- 0.20	1.37
US Emerging Cos	196.90	209.50	+ 0.60	..
Ethical	78.90	83.94	+ 0.14	2.48
Financial	135.10	143.70	- 0.40	0.78
Dividend & Growth	65.48	70.73	+ 0.07	4.34
Global Gwth & Inc	72.08	77.01	- 0.09	2.55
Latin America	58.64	61.74	+ 0.13	..
Capital Reserve	142.60	142.60	..	4.91

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	2109.00	2195.00	..	..

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01268 532 680

Amer Inc & Growth	58.92	61.19	- 0.31	0.50
Emerging Mkts	71.76	75.71	- 0.05	0.04
European	143.60	148.50[+]	+ 0.10	..
Exempt	1004.50	1073.40	+ 0.60	1.73
Extra Income #	46.31	49.72[+]	+ 0.04	5.66
Far East Emg Eco	132.00	136.60	- 0.40	0.45
Fixed Interest #	20.79	24.74[+]	- 0.02	9.50
Fixed Inv Tst	154.50	162.20	+ 0.20	9.58
Japan	161.30	166.60	- 0.60	..
Latin American	53.30	55.64	+ 0.24	0.68
Pacific	86.08	90.99	- 0.76	0.29
Property Share	63.64	66.89	+ 0.41	2.63
UK Emerging Cos	70.11	75.39	- 0.14	1.64
UK Growth	50.74	53.56	+ 0.05	2.19
Alex Wood Port #	80.90	82.34	+ 0.07	1.89
Ethical	75.43	79.49	+ 0.09	2.22
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.85	49.85[+]	- 0.03	7.58

For AEGON see Midlands

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 295 5959

Recall Property #	94.19	101.20[H]	..	5.11

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 956

Asset Income	85.97	91.22[+]	- 0.01	2.18
Income Balance Inc	78.36	83.39	- 0.18	2.63

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
(FA clip: 01793 610 388 Client clip: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts:				
Growth & Income	368.00	386.40	- 0.40	3.25
Capital	478.50	511.50	- 1.00	1.23
Balanced	777.90	831.30[+]	- 0.50	2.50
Accumulator	1498.00	1580.00	+ 1.00	1.96
Income Trusts:				
American Income	66.56	63.69[+]	- 0.17	2.51
High Income	429.50	459.10[+]	+ 0.40	4.12
Equity Income	240.10	256.80[+]	+ 0.10	4.67
High Yield	254.20	262.50	..	6.12
Govt Securities	33.79	35.65	..	6.12
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	207.10	220.80[+]	- 1.20	0.05
European Growth	48.58	51.74	+ 0.20	0.08
International	188.10	201.00	- 0.60	0.11
Japan	203.00	217.00	- 0.50	..
Pacific	424.60	453.80	- 0.90	..
Secs of America	572.70	609.80	- 3.90	0.13
Wrldwide Asset Val	55.44	59.26[+]	- 0.19	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	585.90	627.00	+ 0.80	1.58
Cmwr & Gth	46.33	49.52[+]	+ 0.01	4.38
Smaller Cos	332.30	216.10	+ 0.20	1.03
Snd Smaller Cos	191.20	204.60[+]	- 0.40	0.60
Recovery	163.60	174.80	- 0.40	1.51
Mid Mkt & Cnty	178.90	191.20	- 0.60	0.16
Gross Earnings	402.80	430.50	- 0.30	1.17
Technology	214.20	228.90	- 2.60	..
UK Special Sits	554.60	592.80[+]	- 0.20	1.06

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 535 911

Oriental Dst Pens	113.30	117.70	..	3.04
Flemish Pens Pens	67.99	70.63	..	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	73.09	84.14	- 0.24	1.68
International	68.71	74.16	+ 1.34	..

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

Advance	325.00	347.00	- 0.20	..
Bond	114.40	120.30	- 0.60	6.97
Brit Smlr Cos	117.70	125.20	+ 0.20	1.76
Comm & Ind #	70.56	75.09[+]	+ 0.03	4.06
Europe	266.40	282.20	- 1.70	0.58
Euro Smlr Cos	119.50	127.40	- 0.20	0.62
Income Gwth	376.60	400.60[+]	- 0.40	3.81
Japan	327.10	341.80	- 0.80	..
Latin American	77.61	81.39	- 0.25	0.96
Pacific	117.50	125.00	- 0.20	1.17
UK Smaller Cos	60.17	64.01	- 0.04	1.25
Japan Fd	662.30	682.80[H]	- 1.80	..
Managed Fd	196.20	210.50	- 0.50	2.82

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 9573

Brit & Overs	370.70	382.40	..	0.91
Capital Gwth	124.00	131.10	..	2.49
Wrwide Oppo	226.60	239.10	..	0.86

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 334 6544

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	403.90	429.70	- 1.40	2.39
European Bd Inc	93.09	97.29	..	6.77
Exempt	78.91	84.28	- 0.06	3.97
Financial	84.26	100.80	+ 0.30	2.38
500	491.40	531.30[+]	+ 1.10	2.55
General	308.90	330.70[+]	- 0.50	2.48
Property	238.90	257.40[+]	..	6.32
Trustee	213.40	226.30	- 0.50	2.30
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.00	101.00	..	5.55
Extra Income #	138.00	142.30	- 0.10	4.77
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.52	58.51[+]	- 0.12	8.34
Income #	521.70	611.50	- 0.50	4.70
Income Builder #	67.98	72.19[+]	+ 0.10	5.45
Intl Income	69.85	74.31	- 0.37	2.98
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	139.60	142.60[+]	- 0.20	2.01
Leisure	165.20	176.70[+]	+ 0.20	1.01
Recovery	470.80	503.60	- 1.60	2.64
Smlr Cos Inc	53.55	57.42	+ 0.13	2.14
Special Sits	368.30	395.40	+ 0.10	1.23
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	171.30	182.50	- 0.20	0.27
Asia Acc	281.70	300.90	- 1.90	2.01
Asia Inc	168.80	181.40	- 1.20	2.01
Euro Smlr Inc	180.30	191.40	- 1.00	0.62
- do - Accum	194.70	206.70	- 1.10	0.62
Japan & Gen Inc	157.30	166.60[H]	- 0.70	..
- do - Accum	159.20	168.50	- 0.70	..
Japan Spec Sits	71.32	75.55	- 0.35	..
Worldwide	194.00	206.00	- 0.90	0.62

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	126.60	133.70	- 1.30	..
Amer Smlr Cos	159.10	168.80	- 0.20	..
Convertibles	58.25	62.69[H]	+ 0.15	0.90
Eastern	317.20	341.70	- 1.20	0.30
Equity Income	92.11	98.46	- 0.22	3.80
European Growth	354.30	376.90	- 1.30	0.80
Emerging	315.40	335.50	- 0.70	1.90
Gaspan Growth	85.83	91.05	- 0.74	0.50
Global Bond	68.83	72.43	- 0.13	6.56
Global Growth	145.90	154.90	- 1.00	0.40
Japan Growth	203.60	214.60	- 0.70	..
Japan Smaller	161.00	171.40	- 0.90	..
Korea Trust	74.93	82.13	+ 0.58	..
Pacbasin	141.40	151.60[H]	..	2.20
- do - Accum	264.90	283.90	..	2.20
UK Growth	94.44	101.50	+ 0.10	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	88.30	97.26	+ 0.03	2.50
Select Managed	86.74	92.94	..	1.09

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 259 3300

Intl Gwth Port Inc	89.93	95.67	..	..
Special Oppor Inc	92.03	98.99[+]	..	..

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	130.58	138.18	- 0.54	1.48
- do - Accum	149.41	158.10	- 0.62	1.48
Smaller Cos	136.57	144.52	- 3.62	0.61
Higher Yield #	53.12	56.21	+ 0.02	4.06
American Gth Inc	95.97	101.56[+]	- 0.16	..
European Growth	158.50	168.06[+]	- 0.68	0.08
- do - Accum	169.52	179.55	- 0.70	0.08
Global Bond Inc #	27.12	28.10	- 0.09	7.25
Mngd Profile Inc	50.66	53.61[+]	- 0.13	1.27
- do - Accum	52.93	56.02	- 0.14	1.27
Int Spec Opps	156.34	165.64	- 0.66	..
Pacific Gth	182.20	161.06	- 1.05	0.10
UK General #	89.58	93.74	- 0.24	2.97
- do - Accum #	93.25	98.88	- 0.25	2.91
Japan	59.72	61.20	- 0.18	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	97.08	100.61[+]	- 0.24	8.50

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	64.20	65.08[+]	+ 0.02	8.52

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Envirion	180.40	192.00	+ 0.30	1.74
UK Growth	194.90	207.30[+]	- 0.50	2.04
UK Income	143.60	152.70	- 0.20	4.36

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	224.00	237.40	- 0.20	1.67
- do - Income Dist	121.30	128.50	..	..
- do - Accum	381.60	404.50	+ 0.10	3.89
Gilt & Fxd Int	39.93	41.35[+]	- 0.07	8.50
Growth Units	236.90	251.40	- 0.10	2.18
Bond	169.30	179.60[+]	- 0.40	7.69
Intl Growth	243.90	258.50	- 1.30	0.25
North American	248.00	263.00	- 0.40	0.21
Far East	317.60	336.70	- 2.60	0.70
UK Smaller Cos	211.80	226.70	- 0.20	1.01
European	95.05	100.80	- 0.40	0.65
Japanese Growth	47.46	50.43[+]	- 0.21	..
High Income	398.40	222.90[+]	- 0.60	4.19

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	209.80	222.60[+]	- 0.60	..
European Inc	92.55	98.05	- 0.11	0.73
Smaller Cos (4-1)	98.85	105.17[+]	+ 0.14	1.39
Growth	511.20	544.00[+]	+ 3.40	1.73
Income & Growth #	445.20	474.20	- 1.70	3.08
- do - Accum #	559.60	709.30	- 2.00	3.06
Japan & Gen	69.50	73.71[+]	- 0.33	..
Master Portfolio	5113.06	5116.83	- 14.00	2.10
- do - Accum	5132.75	5142.52	- 17.00	2.10
Special Sits	118.70	126.30	+ 0.10	1.81
High Yield	514.53	514.98	+ 1.00	4.31

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0700

Cazenove Portfolio	97.60	104.00	- 0.01	2.47
American Portfolio	118.04	126.22	- 0.86	0.91
European Portfolio	124.49	132.62	- 0.38	0.43
High Income	50.34	50.47	+ 0.23	7.95
Japanese Portfolio	68.43	72.14[+]	- 0.35	..
Pacific Portfolio	158.45	170.39	- 0.47	1.41
UK Inc & Growth	93.45	99.67	+ 0.03	2.65
Utility & Bond	57.45	58.14	+ 0.02	6.58

CEMT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 898 1815

Inv Fund	733.01	744.00	..	4.35
Fxd Int Sec	151.20	151.80	..	9.35

CGF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	722.89	733.81	..	4.42
Investment Acc	1312.23	1332.72	..	..
Fixed Int Inc	126.03	125.53	..	9.16
Fixed Int Acc	212.80	213.45	..	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5999

Reclamation Inc	97.90	93.74	- 0.97	3.26
Back Bio-Tech	49.14	52.52	..	..
Asian Ethical Trst	172.52	181.18	..	0.00
City Vis Assets	76.71	80.55	..	2.02
City Fin Americ	115.49	121.27[+]	- 1.05	..
City Fin Ind	93.43	98.11	+ 1.25	0.82
City Fin Japan	148.00	155.41	+ 1.26	..
Friars Fins Cap	315.18	335.30	..	2.23
Friars Fins Inc	208.92	213.11	..	4.17
Basket Wrld Gth	148.92	157.86[+]	+ 1.56	..
Talent Cap Gth	149.29	157.15	..	..
Talent Intl Inc	159.10	167.47	..	..
J Sht Inc/Gth Inc	57.25	60.12	..	1.60

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01771 711 6771 Admin: 01277 227 300

Emerging Markets	58.53	62.10[+]	+ 0.14	..

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 573 393

American Gwth	77.94	82.92	- 0.32	..
Dragon Growth	73.72	78.64	- 0.34	0.38
Equity High Inc	68.13	93.75[+]	- 0.02	4.26
- do - Accum	124.04	131.98	- 0.03	4.26
Extra Income Inc	28.79	27.16	- 0.07	7.70
Extra Income Acc	37.16	28.69	- 0.08	7.70
European Gwth	61.55	65.30	- 0.17	1.03
Evergreen	29.79	31.86	- 0.11	..
General Equity	97.99	103.97	+ 0.05	2.97
Japan Growth	50.58	53.63	- 0.22	..
Pacific Basin	58.01	61.53	+ 0.03	0.56
Pref Shr Cos Inc	36.02	38.32	+ 0.07	1.45
- do - Accum	37.93	40.35	+ 0.07	1.45
Retirement Inc #	27.55	29.31	- 0.03	5.84
Special Sits	85.39	90.50	..	1.05
UK & Overseas	57.43	60.93	- 0.09	0.83

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 848 009

Balanced	86.20	89.00	+ 0.11	4.57
Capital	78.00	82.18	+ 0.05	1.85
High Income	49.85	51.66	- 0.11	7.34
Top 50	53.25	56.39	- 0.01	2.30

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	189.34	191.85	- 0.55	4.56
Fixed Int & Convertible	49.71	49.31	- 0.02	6.71
Monthly Inc Plus	47.99	51.05	- 0.11	8.78
Preference Shares	45.97	48.90	+ 1.10	7.77
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	132.36	140.81	+ 0.42	5.77
Managed Fund	75.40	80.21	- 0.06	2.53
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	47.56	50.60	+ 0.19	1.61
Acc Units	45.36	48.26	+ 0.21	1.61
UK & General	91.94	97.70	+ 0.17	2.52
- do - Accum	111.67	125.35	+ 0.22	2.52
UK Growth	173.70	184.79	+ 0.49	2.19
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	209.80	223.19	- 0.65	0.11
Far Eastern Gwth	138.41	148.31	- 0.88	..
Global Bond	80.80	88.87	- 0.21	5.95
Japan Growth	116.69	124.03	- 0.56	..
North Amer Gwth	225.16	244.84	- 0.83	..
Oriental Growth	85.18	90.62	- 0.76	0.05
Worldwide Growth	74.58	79.34	- 0.22	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.45	93.45	+ 0.01	5.45
Homeowner Fund	89.85	96.58[H]	- 0.10	1.56
Guilter Fund	148.56	156.03[+]	- 0.12	1.98

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
01771 407 5995

Conditional Ut	34.31	36.75[+]	..	3.37

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 525 256

Growth	175.09	186.20	- 1.80	1.24
Income	69.56	74.02	+ 0.01	5.23
Exemption	71.39	75.95	- 0.24	0.45
Recovery	168.70	180.50[+]	..	1.54

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	934.90	938.90	..	3.49

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	101.00	107.40[+]	+ 0.10	1.40
Income #	277.50	295.20	..	4.05
- do - Accum #	711.60	757.00	- 0.10	4.05
Smaller Cos	217.00	231.70	+ 0.20	0.99
- do - Accum	269.40	286.50	+ 0.30	0.98
New Tiger(Sing)	186.84	198.89[H]	+ 0.10	1.66
High Inc Port #	78.47	84.54	+ 0.01	4.33

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	1648.30	1706.40	..	..
Japan Small Cos	1246.60	1271.80	..	..
UK Small Cos	2027.60	2111.80	..	2.92
US Small Cos	2038.50	2080.10	..	1.00

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8819

Exec Inc	225.30	237.20	..	2.39

DUNBOIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	315.90	333.70	- 0.20	0.83
New Asia	243.20	259.60	- 1.60	0.22
Japan Growth	111.30	118.40	- 0.69	..
Japan Inc Gth	451.50	480.80	- 2.80	..
Irish Assets	391.10	413.60	+ 0.40	0.71
UK Inc & Gth	241.80	257.50	- 0.20	2.75

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	169.00	170.20	- 0.30	1.89
UK High Inc Inc	168.10	178.90	- 0.20	3.82
- do - Accum	222.70	236.90	- 0.30	3.82
UK Prop & F I Inc	57.82	61.42	- 0.15	9.02
Emerging Opps	96.64	102.60	- 0.20	0.97
UK Smlr Cos #	54.38	58.46[H]	- 0.13	0.80
Extra Income Inc	49.69	49.69[+]	- 0.16	8.61

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 099 526

American	173.30	183.90	- 0.50	0.44
Commodities #	25.04	23.42[+]	+ 0.03	5.98
Equity Income #	137.30	145.69[+]	- 0.21	4.11
Earnings	58.72	62.20	- 0.30	0.32
Financial	81.97	85.22	- 0.04	1.36
Gwnds & Inc #	275.00	290.10[+]	- 0.30	2.88
High Dist #	173.70	184.50	- 0.30	4.60
International	437.50	464.80	- 2.50	0.11
Inv Cap Inc	163.00	110.00	- 0.70	3.00
Latin American	30.02	31.80	+ 0.14	..
Pacific	90.17	95.80	- 0.41	..
Prof High Inc	21.57	23.02	- 0.08	7.17
Tokyo	230.40	244.80	- 0.80	..
UK Smaller Cos	252.10	267.90	- 0.10	1.12

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

BR Director Dlgr	108.02	115.04	+ 2.32	1.24
Growth Acc	249.95	266.81	+ 0.65	0.55
Income	598.83	624.51	+ 1.67	5.04

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	222.20	236.40	..	0.06

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01206 431 480

European	91.50	96.32	- 0.27	1.84
Select Tst	47.89	50.20	- 0.21	1.04
Far Eastern	316.45	333.11	- 1.68	0.27
High Income	138.99	146.30	+ 0.24	4.65
UK Index Trking	47.84	50.15	- 0.03	3.29
Intl Growth	134.84	141.94[H]	- 0.13	0.42
North American	141.99	149.14	- 1.53	1.43
Pelican	134.05	141.10	- 0.02	3.11
Smaller Cos	70.45	74.20	+ 0.05	2.78
Special Sits	92.92	97.81	+ 0.14	2.84
Tst of Inv Tsts	206.03	216.87[+]	- 0.29	1.70

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5995

Smaller Cos Inc	210.97	224.44	+ 0.42	1.26
Smaller Cos Acc	373.35	397.19	+ 0.72	1.26
Recovery	53.51	57.00	+ 0.12	1.48
Recovery Acc	54.92	58.43	+ 0.13	1.48

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	82.86	89.03	+ 0.12	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	49.88	53.21	+ 0.09	0.54
High Income #	39.27	41.01	..	11.22
Recovery	51.83	55.12[+]	+ 0.09	..
Zero Preference	41.45	43.98	+ 0.04	..

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Assets Tst	85.42	90.92	- 0.15	3.08
Family Income Tst	47.05	47.05	..	5.05
Family Trust	94.94	101.00	- 0.20	2.57
United Charities	282.40	300.40	+ 0.200	2.46

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callines: Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Cash Fund				
Bond Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.50
Mixed Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	27.23	27.31[+]	- 0.05	7.32
Intl Bond	29.51	30.61	- 0.05	5.46
Income Funds				
High Income	25.29	26.56[+]	..	5.43
Income Plus	122.20	130.00[+]	+ 0.20	4.07
Amer Eq Inc	61.69	65.35	- 0.50	1.35
European Income	47.53	50.54[+]	- 0.10	2.27
Far East Inc	69.46	69.53	- 0.25	2.37
Global Convertible	24.90	26.38[+]	- 0.01	2.65
UK Div Gnth	36.88	39.71[+]	+ 0.01	2.21
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	78.96	75.70	- 0.29	..
American	329.50	348.90	- 0.60	..
Amer Spec Sits	180.30	192.40	- 0.45	..
Japan Smaller Cos	35.01	37.35[+]	- 0.13	..
European	214.50	228.10	+ 0.30	0.60
European Opps	75.46	80.24	- 0.01	0.14
Global Prs	39.51	42.46	- 0.29	0.69
UK Growth	114.10	121.40	- 0.20	1.18
Growth & Inc	164.90	175.40	..	2.75
Intl PEP	44.90	47.75	- 0.10	1.02
Japan Spec Sits	90.56	96.51	- 0.40	..
Japan	180.60	191.80	- 0.70	..
Managed Intl	304.40	355.50[H]	- 1.50	0.42
Moneyfeeder	64.13	68.15	- 0.04	..
Recovery	65.04	69.48[H]	+ 0.08	1.30
South E Asia	161.60	153.95	- 1.00	1.09
Special Sits	677.20	720.10	+ 2.50	0.64
Specialised Funds				
Cash Account Units	113.47	113.47	+ 0.01	5.50

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	149.30	152.10[+]	+ 2.50	1.75
Inv Profile #	92.61	94.23[+]	+ 0.05	3.65
Cap Plate	136.60	159.50	- 0.10	1.12
Clerical Opps	137.00	136.70	+ 1.30	2.85
Growth Inc	35.59	36.28	- 0.01	0.99
Private Portfolio	475.80	484.70[+]	+ 3.10	1.11

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 690 388 Admin/Xst 01277 690 356

Euro Smlr Cos	140.90	150.20	- 0.90	0.35
Emrg Asian	159.40	170.50	+ 0.50	..
High Income	51.57	52.25[+]	+ 0.02	9.52
Inv Trust(Ord)	135.84	118.80	+ 0.10	4.26
US Smaller Cos	400.90	428.10	+ 1.90	..

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01771 407 5995

- do - Inv Tst Inc	78.55	82.89[H]	+ 0.04	4.14
Investment Trust	105.59	111.03[+]	+ 0.19	..
UK Smaller Cos	101.63	106.87	- 0.08	0.85

FRANKLIN UNIT MGMT LTD
Eng 0171 320 6500 Dealing: 0345 725511

American Growth	78.03	83.14[+]	- 0.71	..
- do - Accum	78.03	83.14[+]	- 0.71	..

Small losses in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	376½	Allied Domecq	497	- 6	5.9	15.0
573	380	Bolmac (HP)	570	- 3	5.7	15.0
146	98	Burn Stewart	117		4.4	18.7
467	352	Cantrell Mary	417		5.3	16.7
536	403	Edinburgh	525	- 2	4.3	18.5
445	315	Highland Dist	356	- 3	3.7	16.5
217	152	Macallan Glen	164	- 2	3.0	15.5
710	560	Macon Edin 'A'			1.0	16.2
709	552	Matthew Clark	685		2.5	17.5
158	61	Morrison W	153	- 6	3.5	17.5
261½	128½	SA Breweries	256½		1.5	30.6

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3168½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3146½	- 12½	4.0	11.6
661	415	Abbey Nat	560	- 1	4.9	10.8
385	350	Allied Irish	371		3.7	21.5
286	198	Arb. New 'J'	214	- 7	5.3	
5075	2531½	Bank Amerinv	4950			
316	191½	Bank Scotland	316		4.0	13.2
819	557½	Barclays	804	- 3	3.5	8.4
488	298	Bk of Ireland	488	- 3	4.5	9.2
525	418	Cater Allen	520		8.3	7.6
5371½	2450	Caxton	5162½	- 31½		
392	316½	Close Bros	339	- 2	3.2	12.5
1216½	1139½	Commercial	1179½		3.4	
1378	980½	Dai Ich Kan	1236½	- 6½	0.4	
3475	2775	Deutsche Bk	3231½	- 26½	2.3	
8814	5694	Espirito Sanc	7400	- 50	0.6	10.6
1611	1139½	Fuji Bank Y	1552½	- 4	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	434		7.8	12.0
253	189	Hambros	234		4.3	
1129	989	HSBC	1092	- 15	4.1	11.2
1099	578	HSBC Hl	1072	- 13	4.2	11.0
621	356	Irish Perm	388		4.8	12.7
465	356	Kung Shanghn	451		7.5	11.7
353	264	Lloyds TSB	350		5.4	15.5
540	479	Nat Aust Gr	509		5.7	14.5
717	458	Nat Westm	717		4.6	13.7
71	63	Rea Brothers	67		4.4	24.6
6395	3735	Rpl Bk Scot	6395	- 41	4.1	16.7
1478	906½	Schroders	1478	+ 10½	4.0	
1180	823½	Schroder Inv	1150		3.7	15.2
1161	941	Singer & Fried	1161		4.3	16.5
662½	236	Stand Charty	662½	- 10	2.3	12.3
121	78	Unicorn	91		2.9	
2169	9045½	Wells Fargo	21611½	- 15½	1.6	
3171	211	Westpac	3054	- 17	4.6	
305	200	Wintrust	232		4.8	17.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
68	35	Airdrie Sth Hl	40			8.7
388	143	Accel Hldg.	388			0.7
770	465	Bass	729	- 5	3.8	17.2
76	46	Bk Ire Inv Bs	73		4.8	13.6
192	137	Barbwood Bre	171		3.9	16.2
97	70½	City Centre Rest	93		4.3	18.1
501	305	Compass Grp	495		1.9	21.9
363	197	Dobsons P Ale	352	+ 3	2.2	24.2
475	335	Fuller Sm A Ev	467		2.1	18.4
614	402	Greenalls Grp	566	+ 5	3.1	15.5
658	468	Greene King	632		3.8	15.5
278	140	Grosvenor Inns	246		2.8	26.5
254	198	Gringer Chas Ge	226		4.9	20.1
357	240	Hardy Hanos	352		1.4	26.9
160	150	Hownlsm	155		4.8	
3425	3046	Holt J	3100	+ 3	2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield	321		2.1	16.1
348	256	Marston Thmp	345	+ 3	2.6	16.3
668	391½	Morland	668	+ 5	2.2	17.0
152½	92½	My Kinda Townl	131		2.9	12.9
8½	5½	Paramount	5¼	+ ¼	4.8	9.2
142½	70	Pelican Gp	135	+ 1	1.6	21.2
2972	1721	Rank Org(ccL)	2911		2.6	15.8
319	217	Ransdens (Hl)	311		2.0	14.0
998	307	Regent Inns	995	+ 31	1.0	31.2
671	492	Scot & Nwe	649	+ 2	3.6	17.5
208	173	Tom Cobleigh	204	- 1	4.4	39.7
1378	1040	Unid Resp	1378		4.6	14.3
1485	648	Wetherspoon JD	782	+ 19	1.9	27.3
732	521	Whitbread	693	- 9	3.7	17.1
665	483	Wolverhmptn D	645	+ 1	3.0	15.7
351	186	Yates Bros.	351	+ 1	1.1	51.2
513	425	Young 'A'	513	+ 27	3.7	20.6

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38	17½	AAF Inds	29	+ 2		
165	125	Abbey	165		4.0	10.7
245	143	Allen	240		3.1	17.9
149	94	Amec	102		3.7	21.5
375	133	Anderson Strthc	365			
194	129½	Ashtead'N'	189	- 4	1.7	16.3
414	26	Avocado	30		13.8	4.6
39	23	Bailey (Ben) Con	38		4.7	6.8
414	307½	Barcom	39	- 1	1.9	
262	158	Barratt Devs	236	- 3	4.9	12.8
182	122	Bazer Homes	175	+ 2	4.3	14.0
303	180	Bellway	283	- 5	3.4	13.6
57	15	Bellwinch	18			
388	307½	Berkeley Gp	380	- 7	1.8	16.9
185	147	Bett Bros	149		4.5	5.4
245	175	Boot (Henry)	205		4.4	9.6
124	81	Brandon Hire	118	+ 5	2.4	21.0
49	17	Brokenva Gp	21		9.5	4.1
28	14	Br Bldg & Eng	19	+ 1		
134	93	Bryant	119	- 1	5.3	14.4
121	82	CALA	95		4.3	10.4
38	10	Campbell & Arm	16			12.7
64	34	Castle T	44	+ 2	12.4	
247½	67	Costain	74			
110	53	Countrywidet	73		4.6	
81	43	Crest Nicholsont	70		3.6	
98	70	Cussins	80	+ 1	5.9	7.0
293	178	Eve (Geo)	173		6.5	9.3
39	13	Gallaher(I)	19		6.3	10.3
863	733	Gleeson (MJ)	840	+ 17	2.2	15.9
86	51	Green (Eric)	51		6.6	
318	178	Hanelock Exro	309		1.3	26.0
154	104	Hazlm-Stan	150	+ 1	3.4	12.1
93	73	Higgs & Hill	91		3.4	77.3
22	14	Howard Hdgs	18		5.6	16.4
34½	8½	Jarvis	31½	- 1½		
148	98	Jelfries	146	+ 9	3.7	
293	185	Jarvis Gp (J)	282	+ 1	1.9	36.1
110	82	Lang (J & A) Cv Pf	108½		7.4	
61	12	Lovell (YJ)	15½			
210	126	Meanders (J)	205	+ 3	3.5	10.9
181	104	McAlpine (JA)	157		4.6	18.5
88	68	McCarthy & S	85		2.9	11.8
103	51	Morgan Sndall	97		3.5	
128	116	Morrison Const	127		4.2	12.4
106	53	Mowlem (J)	85	+ 2	3.0	
2056	1534	Northmnstrn A	2054	+ 9	5.0	
115	76½	Perkins	108		3.9	10.9
126	94	Prowting	121		3.9	16.1
53	13	Rane Ind	18½			
149	93	Redrow	142		2.9	15.4
1350	1000	Rmc Group	1350		3.2	10.6
398	265	Sherrit Hdgs¢D	260		3.8	10.6
112½	71	Shorco	71		7.0	10.9
358	258	Spandex	358		4.8	
176	125	Tay Homes	145		6.9	10.0
153	99	Taylor Woodrw	145	- 1	1.9	27.6
568	408	Tilbury Dougls	433		6.6	
23	6	Tronchemie¢D	8½			6.4
30	7½	Try Group	13½		4.6	19.0
108	71	Wimpey(an	94		5.4	7.1
116	65	Warehouses	88		6.4	8.2
60	37	Ward Hdgs†	40		4.7	6.0
205	117½	Westbury	202	- 2	9.6	15.0
6½	3½	Wiggins	6½			14.0
180	124	Wilson (C)	179		3.2	13.3
419	308	Wilson Bowdn	403		3.2	
146	97	Wimpey G	142	+ 3	5.0	

BUILDING MATERIALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
15	7½	Attnghtm	13½			
317	237½	BPB Ind	317	- 3	3.6	14.7
133	94	Baggeridge Brk	96		4.0	12.9
42	22½	Bardon	39½		3.0	17.3
76	36	Blockleys	55		3.6	16.1
362	258	Brdn Cmcte	340	+ 2	4.3	15.5
89	72	Brendon PLC	80		5.5	11.1
136	106	Br Dredging	125		5.6	16.3
583	338	CRH	574	+ 4	2.0	
46	27	Cabernet Hld	38		3.9	
210	148	Capel	162		6.5	
273	173	Caradon	214	- 1	5.5	11.1
134½	99½	Caradon pf	109½		8.3	
55	18	Chilton Gp	39		4.6	
198	105	Dyson (JB)(I)	193		6.3	16.0
90	63	Dyson A'I	79		6.3	6.5
315	205	Epwin	298		5.3	11.3
176	73	Flare	176	+ 11		
99	65	Gibbs & Dandy	82			4.8
206	160	Graham Grp	199	- 2	4.0	
402	312	Halstead (J)	398		2.7	17.5
326	254	Hanworth	293	+ 1	3.4	13.5
65	36	Hrwcrscurt	62		7.5	12.5
268	207½	Hrwd Wtm	239		3.8	11.9
65	53	Redpath	62		3.2	10.0
358	262	Johnston	346	+ 3	3.4	9.0
108	80	Lutesheft	101	+ 1	4.5	13.7
139½	105	Marley	129	+ 1	4.6	11.6
161	113	Marshall(L)	161	+ 1	3.9	11.6
418	289	Meyer Ind	408	- 4	3.6	15.1
178	113	Newman Tnks	170	- 1	7.4	
108	77	Nmcrete	96			
36	12	Phoenix Timbr	36	+ 1		27.1
2252	1364	Pilkington	2141	- 2	3.1	17.0
283	152	Pochin	183	+ 1	4.6	13.7
1319	848½	RMC Gp	1307	+ 5	3.1	12.6
170	124	Ransford	148	+ 1	5.2	12.0
1765	121	Rutland	148	+ 1	5.2	12.0
125	100	Rugby Group	115		4.8	25.0
126	88	Ruzzoli (A)	125		2.6	16.8
282	196	Sig	270	- 2	3.7	
5	2½	SWP	4			
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	172		3.6	13.7
43	16	Spring Ram	41½		5.5	13.2
188	175	Staveley Inds	175		5.5	18.0
130	80	Tarmac	119	+ 1	5.8	13.5
115	97	Tilbury Contrac	113		4.2	13.0
81	43	Travis Perkins	78		3.6	18.5
365	265	Travis Perkins	365		2.7	17.2
36	24	Tudor	34	- 1		
68	31	Watchouse&Co	31			
489	324	Wheatley	459	- 3	2.7	15.8

CHEMICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
198	146	Albright & Wil	181	- 4	4.6	
157	109	Allied Colloids	130		2.6	19.9
245	196	Amdea Ind	198		3.6	12.8
76	47	Amberley Gp	76		3.1	21.9
5179½	4120½	BASF DM	5173½	- 459½	3.6	
948	689	BOC	905	- 3	4.5	17.9
310	235	BTP	307	- 2	4.5	17.9
12341½	8741½	Bayer DM50	12165½	- 567½	2.6	
119	67	Bristol Chems	89		4.6	19.7
278	195	Br Vita	218		4.6	13.9
298	184	Canning (W)	218	+ 4	4.1	20.7
493½	352	Courtaulds	442	+ 3	4.4	10.3
387½	310	Croda	341	+ 3	3.5	14.0
241	125	Deeley	224		4.0	14.6
285	234	Elks & Evesard	274		2.7	21.5
107	58	Exec Colour	88		4.4	13.2
224	114	Gibbon	184		6.6	7.9
146	76	Hudson	79	- 1		24.6
1224½	1123½	Hoechst	1221½	- 200		26.1
131½	102	Holiday Chem	116	+ 1½	5.5	14.0
950	650	ICI	940	+ 14	6.0	21.4
402	188½	Inspect	360	- 2	2.1	
159	121½	Kalsmt	136	+ 1	4.4	
851	599	Laporte	723		4.1	17.1
371	292	Manders	325		4.3	14.7
105	75	Mersham	86		3.5	15.4
95	65	Mersham	86		3.5	
66	30	Mermaid	32		1.8	
426	290	Pennant	390	+ 1	1.7	
450	198	Scapa	430	+ 2	3.4	16.4
34	16	Sutcliffe Speak	32		1.8	99.4
1083½	695½	Takeda Chem	962	- 14½	0.9	13.4
1063	728	Wtrshlme R	1063		2.6	18.1
312	255	Yorks Chem†	278	+ 4	3.9	
340	246	York Cstn	339	+ 3	2.7	17.9

DISTRIBUTORS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	57	ABI Ltd	92		5.6	10.0
595	430	Adam & Harvey	460		5.3	6.0
21	13	Alexandros	14		2.7	
113	88	Appleyard	105½	- 1	7.6	
34	3½	Ass Br Eng	9½		4.3	16.4
623	905	BSS Group	34	- 1		
29	21	Bandt	19		8.7	13.6
22½	15½	Bearing Powr	20	- 3	3.9	7.6
36	18	Bagod 'A				

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
491	345	Bowthorpe	491		3.4	16.9
22	10	Bridgend Gp	21	+ 1	4.8	
78	56	Brown Hld	76	- 1	2.7	30.6
260	215	Lucas	260		5.1	11.8
14	9	Cambrdge	11½			31.5
71	51	Cmbrdge Mtr	71	+ 1	0.8	
78	57	Caradon Sankey	78		3.1	17.5
346	247	Cookson	346	+ 1	3.2	17.8
135	100	Cosalt	135		3.7	24.2
162	111	Delta	162	+ 1	2.8	17.2
3755	2750	Dunlop Sl	3755		3.2	16.3
1355	1000	Elementis	1355		3.7	21.5
1274	1000	Enterprise Oil	1274		3.1	15.5
2347½	1799	Hanson	2347½	- 4½	4.4	13.3
1775½	1335	Hanson Cnfld	1675	- 4	7.0	17.2
4299½	3300½	Hutch Whamp	3964½	- 8½	2.0	21.1
585½	341½	Jardine Math	493	- 14½	3.3	9.8
37	25	Jourdan (T)	30		3.3	11.1
2175½	1734	Lonrho	2068		2.9	33.3
176	113	McLeod Russel	175		4.6	15.8
624½	481	Powell Duffryn	453	+ 1	6.9	18.6
166	61	Queensgate	66	- 3	0.6	
245½	138	Renold	245		3.2	14.6
1750	1400	Rolls-Royce	1717	+ 2	2.9	19.6
187	150½	Rotork	182		3.3	18.3
183	143	Rubicon	167		4.1	16.6
1568½	1034½	SHK 'B'	1562½	- 9½	3.3	
114	67	Simon Eng	105		4.1	37.1
223	49	Smith-Kent	209	+ 5	1.7	
695	468	Stelrect	629	+ 6	1.9	23.1
1956	729	Sir Hundred	1956		1.5	13.8
688	421	Smiths Ind	688	+ 4	2.6	20.5
708	451	Spirax-Sarcol	708	+ 4	2.4	20.7
311	227	Sterling Ind	310		3.1	15.6
469	358	TI	467		3.2	18.5
183	98	Tarmac (EO)	98		7.4	13.9
179	121	TransTec	168		6.5	11.8
184	137	Tregar Lloyd	150		6.5	11.8
156	133	Unicorn Ind	138		5.0	11.5
18	14	Utd Ind's	15		3.1	12.0
15½	5	Vernon	13½			
302	162	Vickers	261	+ 4	3.2	16.7
14½	9½	Vitec	12½			
170	126	Wagon Ind	168	+ 3	3.6	12.1
1150	1000	Wassall	1150		3.5	12.8
1000	743	Waterford	1000		3.5	12.8
1434½	976	Williams Hldg	1384½	+ 10½	4.6	16.5
1775½	1335	Wolseley	1775½		3.4	18.8
3568½	2343½	General Mtr	3537½	+ 43½	2.9	
1491½	846	Honda Motor	1369½	- 8½	0.5	
448	304	Lucas	430		3.4	16.4
445	305	Lookers	445		3.4	
277	163	Lonrho	269	+ 3	3.5	26.7
1035½	53	Mayflower	95½		0.5	
208	145	Sytner	191		3.5	14.3
197	119	T & N	172	+ 2	4.4	11.0
425	324	Tinsley Hldgs	424	- 1	2.2	23.1

ELECTRICITY

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
754½	437½	East Midlands†	611	+ 12	6.1	8.5
479	379	London Elec	740	+ 5	5.1	8.4
417	239½	Midlands Elec†	407	+ 5	5.1	8.6
214½	189½	National Grid	190	- ½	6.3	8.5
561	421½	National Power	476	+ 5	4.3	9.8
542	252	Nat Power PP	342	+ 4	4.3	9.8
703½	442	Northern Elec	644	+ 3	6.6	8.1
477	313	Nthn Ireland†	418		4.3	9.6
609	457½	PowerGen	523	+ 6	4.1	9.6
566	353	PowerGen (FP)	504	+ 5	4.1	10.2
378	303	Hydro-Elect†	336	+ 5	5.4	9.2
1045	765	Scottish Power	934	+ 5	5.8	10.5
538	240½	Seeboard	534		3.4	11.6
950	501½	Sth Wales	850		4.5	8.8
8894	5045	Southern Elec†	853	+ 4	4.8	10.2
8894	558	Yorkshire Elec†	814	+ 11	5.5	8.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	292	Acal	554		1.7	28.1
248	77½	Acorn Comp	198	+ 3		
990	625	Admiral	988	+ 15	1.2	
2867½	1275	Aeroskrft	191	- 2	1.8	
41	30	Arlan	39		1.9	13.5
131	77	Astec	123½	- 1	1.5	
563	116	Atlan	510		0.8	22.8
364	239	BICC	340	- 2	4.7	
2520	1925	Bowtex Hunter	2162		6.2	21.3
2520	1925	Bicker	2454		6.2	11.3
635	284	Bowthorpe	430		2.7	19.6
27	17½	Bolgn (AF) 'A'	23		2.2	9.1
201	117	CML Microsy	123		6.2	12.3
39	17	Channel Hldgs	36		2.8	12.1
39½	19	Chloride	39½	- 1½	1.4	32.4
97	61	Clayhithe	71		5.6	12.0
170	37	Cray Elect	44		4.3	
722½	465	Criticnhg	722½	+ 1½	1.7	24.7
717	330	Dems Eq Sys	676		0.4	30.2
533	373	Delkat	419	+ 8	4.8	20.9
565	365	Domino†	448		2.8	42.4
72	51	Dowding Mills	65		5.3	17.2
3313	1465	Dtack	2825		0.8	31.4
3382½	2480½	Electrolux 'B'	3350	+ 3½	3.7	
38½	26	Emess	36	- ½		
1659½	860	Evesham 'B'	1495½	- 18½	1.1	
104	64	Exmocrypt	73		3.8	12.9
614	370	Excellocnt	602	- 1	1.5	24.0
625	375	Fairey Group	613		1.6	22.2
514	165	Filtronic Comt	385	- 18	0.2	61.0
725	195	Forward Gp	695		1.2	29.9
100	48	Forward Tech	98		4.1	
381	269	GEC	361	+ 1½	4.0	16.9
171	114	Gcrsdly	168		7.0	10.8
141	75	Ind Control†	106		4.2	21.1
34	14	Infotec†	31		3.2	39.3
132	58	Inmed	104		1.9	
56	28	LPA Ind	56	+ 2	3.9	12.9
330	266	MTL Instr'D	288		2.1	
398	340	Maxwell Cmt	395		2.3	17.5
89	59	Micro Medin	87		1.2	
208	133	Nadtech	199	+ 2	2.6	13.0
215	135	Nail Eng	212	+ 2	4.8	
180	133½	Nthrn	176	+ 1	1.6	22.3
57	39	Nmrscon Ind	48		5.7	11.7
37	19	Oxy (Norman)	23			
95	24	Nuclear	43	+ 2	0.9	38.4
157	102	PB & Smith†	119		6.5	11.2
59	38	Hopkinsons	36		4.6	
41	29	How Gp	37		2.6	
95	65½	Howden	78	+ 6	4.6	8.8
229	162	Hunsng	221		4.5	20.7
369	265	IMI	363	+ 3	4.8	21.7
561	409	Johnson Matth	561	+ 9	3.0	16.9
54	28	Jones Stepnan	54	+ 4		11.2
608	310	Kelsey Ind	608		5.1	10.3
280	232	Lucal	238		4.4	11.8
265	195½	Lucas (I) A	250		3.2	19.6
45	29	MK Hldgs	38		2.7	14.2
39	19	MS Int	28		5.3	29.1
495	378	McKechnie	495	+ 5	4.2	14.8
96	61	Megget	91	- ½	5.3	
126	91½	Melrobin	116	+ 3	4.4	14.2
138	96	Melec	95	- 1	4.4	
946	687	Meltrm	941		2.7	
415	253	Morgan Cfrc	414	+ 4	4.0	18.1
316	176	Morris Ashby†	270		3.2	14.1
55	32	Norgrond	47		5.9	
414	12	Odd Ind	16	+ ½	5.9	15.2
411	293	Powerscreen	410		2.6	
15½	4	Prospect Indst	4½	- ½	3.3	

ENGINEERING

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
247	167	Alltt	220	+ 1	2.0	67.0
97	47½	APV	89	+ 1	3.8	
248	78	ASW	72		2.8	
445	311½	Alumasc†	427		2.2	18.9
175	42	Alvis	164	- 5	1.5	16.4
201	133	Ash & Lacy	200		4.1	13.6
563	538	Atlas Equip	563		4.1	22.2
153	101	Aynsley Metal	153		4.6	7.8
322	181	BBA†	314½	- 1½	2.4	34.3
130	79	Bl Group	130		4.6	15.4
415	315	Bredbnd	415		3.6	20.7
177	77	Baynes (Charles)	121		2.6	
36½	23	Beaufort	28	+ 3	2.7	
13	3½	Bowton Group	5½		2.6	
130	90	Bttrm	105		4.8	12.9
307	208	Bodycote	307	+ 3	1.5	24.8
83	53	Booth Hnts	83			
51	13½	Brassey	30	+ ½	3.9	13.5
107	99	Bridon	103		5.8	13.0
1527½	4169½	Br Aerospace†	5173	- 1	1.8	21.5
1987½	144	Br Steel	1987½	- 25½	5.4	5.7
14½	10½	Brooke Tool†	12½		2.0	12.0
48	31	Brunel	31½	- ½	3.2	12.0
1990	1000	Bulfbrought	1990		5.0	12.0
1990	1000	Bunzl(cl)	1004	+ 4	4.0	
123	77	Burnblell	104	+ 4	4.8	15.6
334	236	Carda Grp	306		4.2	15.6
194	150	Castings	185		6.5	8.4
255	130	Chamberlin Hll	224		3.3	16.8
407	294	Channing	407		3.3	50.0
255	130	Clyde Blowers	224		1.9	34.0
569	382	Cobham	568		1.2	6.0
725	595	Coken (A)	645		4.9	11.9
203	148	Concentric	170		4.6	9.2
243	210	Cookson	224		4.5	13.0
249	189½	David Brown	198		4.5	13.6
330	238	Dis	300		4.1	14.2
177	117	Garton Eng	177		4.1	9.6
378	292	Glynwed	368	+ 1	4.5	10.1
14½	10½	Guardian	14½		4.5	10.1
98	59	Hadon Medin	85		3.5	
208	133	Hadleigh	199	+ 2	2.6	13.0
215	135	Hall Eng	212	+ 2	4.8	
180	133½	H

Law Report March 21 1996 Court of Appeal

Date of knowledge of tortious injury for limitation purposes

Forbes v Wandsworth Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment March 14]

Where a plaintiff had sustained a major injury as a result of an operation which he had expected to be successful, his date of knowledge for the purposes of sections 11 and 14 of the Limitation Act 1980 occurred as soon as he had had time to overcome the shock of the injury, take stock of his disability and seek advice.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice Roch dissenting) in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, Wandsworth Health Authority, from a ruling on a preliminary issue by Judge Peter Baker, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in Kingston upon Hull District Registry, in favour of the plaintiff, Nelson Vernon Dugald Forbes, who died on February 5, 1995. Jean Mavis Cecilia Forbes, his widow and personal representative, was substituted as plaintiff, under rule 7 of Order 15 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, on August 2, 1995.

Leave was granted to appeal to the House of Lords.

Section 11 of the 1980 Act provides: "(1) This section applies to any action for damages for negligence . . where the damages claimed by the plaintiff for the negligence . . consist of or include damages in respect of personal injury. .

"(3) An action . . shall not be brought after the expiration of the period applicable in accordance with subsections (4). .

"(4) . . the period applicable is three years from — (a) the date when the cause of action accrued; (b) the date of knowledge (if later) of the person injured."

Section 14 provides: "(1) In sections 11 . . of this Act references to a person's date of knowledge are references to the date on which he first had knowledge of the following facts — (a) that the injury in question was significant; and (b) that the injury was attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission which is alleged to constitute negligence. .

"(3) For the purposes of this section a person's knowledge includes knowledge which he might reasonably have been expected to acquire — (a) from facts observable or ascertainable by him; or (b) from facts ascertainable by him with the help of medical or other appropriate expert advice which it is reasonable for him to seek: . . "

Mr Martin Spencer for the defendants; Mr Christopher Limb for Mrs Forbes.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the action concerned an allegation of medical negligence in relation to the treatment of Mr Forbes. The writ was issued on December 10, 1992, more than seven years after the expiry of the primary limitation period. The question whether the action was was statute-barred depended upon whether "the date of knowledge" of the deceased as defined in section 14 was within three years of the issue of the writ.

The judge, who in addition to the affidavit evidence, heard oral evidence from the deceased and Mrs Forbes, held that the deceased had no actual or constructive knowledge within the meaning of section 14 until he had, through his solicitors, received the advice of a vascular surgeon in October 1992. He therefore decided the issue in the deceased's favour.

The deceased was 56 when he was admitted to the defendants' hospital for a by-pass operation by Mr Gillespie on October 24, 1982. The operation was not successful and a second operation was carried out at 11.45am the next day. Unfortunately that too was not successful. The deceased was told that in order to prevent gangrene and save his life it was necessary to amputate the leg. He agreed and the operation was carried out on November 5, 1982.

The sole allegation was that it was negligent not to perform the second operation sooner. It was alleged that if Mr Gillespie had operated sooner the amputation could have been avoided.

The statement of claim did not explain why that should be so. The deceased's solicitor merely stated in his affidavit that he had obtained a report in October 1992 from an unnamed vascular surgeon and "the report concluded that the medical staff employed by the defendants delayed . . in initiating action to restore the blood supply such that irreversible muscle ischaemia resulted in amputation."

It was not until 1991 that the deceased took any steps to obtain professional advice. By that time Mrs Forbes was finding the strain of looking after the deceased increasingly arduous. The solicitor was consulted on June 26, 1991.

The judge held that the deceased had no actual knowledge because he had no reason to suspect or think that the removal of his leg was due to the act or omission of the defendants that was alleged to constitute negligence.

The negligence was said to consist of an omission to operate sooner. It was said that the delay was the cause of the injury and that delay was negligent. It was not sufficient that the deceased knew that he had lost his leg and that there was in fact a period of time between the first and second operations.

Mr Limb argued that the deceased did not even know that he was injured, within section 11(4), or that the injury was significant, within section 14(1)(a), until he obtained medical advice in 1991.

However, his Lordship had no doubt that Mr Spencer was right in submitting that the injury was the amputation and that it was significant. Therefore the deceased knew of the injury and knew that it was significant within a very short time of the operation.

Did the deceased know prior to receipt of the opinion by the vascular surgeon in 1991 that the loss of his leg was attributable in whole or in part to the omission to operate sooner than 11.45am on October 25, 1982?

Mr Spencer submitted that all that the deceased needed to know was that there was a period of time between the first and second operations, that the second operation was not successful and that in consequence of the second operation not being successful his leg was amputated.

His Lordship said that in many medical negligence cases the plaintiff would not know that his injury was attributable to the omission of the defendant alleged to constitute negligence in the sense that it was capable of being attributable to that omission until he was also told that the defendant had been negligent. But that did not alter the fact that there was a distinction between causation and negligence; the first was relevant to section 14(1), the second was not.

The fact that in such cases it might be necessary for the plaintiff also to know of the negligence before he could identify the omission alleged to have been negligent was nothing to the point. It did not mean that he fell foul of the closing words of section 14(1). Accordingly, the judge was correct in holding that there was no actual knowledge.

As to section 14(3), it was clear that the deceased could reasonably have been expected to acquire the relevant knowledge with the help of suitable medical advice. The real question was whether it was reasonable for him to seek that advice.

One of the problems with the language of section 14(3)(b) was that two courses of action might be perfectly reasonable. Thus it might be perfectly reasonable for a person who was not cured when he had hoped to be to say: "Oh well, it is just one of those things. I expect the doctor did his best."

Alternatively, the explanation for the lack of success might be due to want of care on the part of those in whose charge he was, in which case it would be perfectly reasonable to take a second opinion. But the person was in effect making a choice, either consciously by deciding to do nothing, or unconsciously by in fact doing nothing.

Could a person who had effectively made that choice many years later, without any alteration of circumstances, change his mind and seek advice which revealed that all along he had a claim. His Lordship thought not.

It seemed to his Lordship that where, as here, the plaintiff expected that the operation would be successful and it manifestly was not, with the result that he sustained a major injury, a reasonable man of moderate intelligence, such as the deceased, if he thought about the matter, would say that the lack of success was: "Either just one of those things, a risk of the operation or something may have gone wrong and there may have been a want of care. I do not know which, but if I am ever to make a claim, I must find out."

Any other construction would make the Act unworkable since a plaintiff could delay indefinitely before seeking expert advice and say, as the deceased did, that he had no occasion to seek it earlier. That was contrary to the whole purpose of the Act which was to prevent defendants being vexed by stale claims which it was no longer possible to contest.

The judge had directed himself that the standard of reasonableness was objective but had to take into account the deceased's position, circumstances, character and intelligence, and he had cited the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Nash v Eli Lilly & Co* ([1993] 1 WLR 782, 799). Like Lord Justice Roch, his Lordship found difficulty in seeing how the individual character and intelligence of the plaintiff could be relevant in an objective test.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that in the circumstances of the case the deceased did have constructive knowledge. That knowledge could not be attributed to him immediately he came out of hospital. He would have to have time to overcome the shock, take stock of his grave disability and its consequences and seek advice. That would take about 12 to 18 months.

Accordingly, the preliminary issue should be determined in the defendants' favour.

Lord Justice Evans delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, dissenting only on the constructive knowledge issue, said that the judge's directions to himself on the law were based on *Nash v Eli Lilly*, where constructive knowledge was dealt with.

The court there said: "The proper approach is to determine what this plaintiff should have observed or ascertained, while asking no more of him than is reasonable. The standard of reasonableness in connection with the observations and/or the effort to ascertain are therefore finally objective but must be qualified to take into consideration the position, and circumstances and character of the plaintiff."

His Lordship found difficulty with that passage. If the standard of reasonableness was objective, then the position, circumstances and character of a would-be plaintiff could not be relevant although the circumstances in which the would-be plaintiff found himself at the time it was said he should have sought expert advice would be relevant.

Nevertheless, *Nash v Eli Lilly* bound the judge and their Lordships. Because the judge had to take account of the deceased's position, circumstances and character, and because the judge saw and heard the deceased, his Lordship was not prepared to hold that the judge was clearly wrong in the conclusion he came to on the issue.

It would be unfortunate if the question asked in section 14(3)(b) were to be resolved by imputing to a would-be plaintiff an unconscious decision to do nothing and then requiring him to stand by that decision.

Such an approach would encourage those undergoing medical treatment which did not achieve the desired result to go automatically to another specialist for an opinion whether the treatment given could have been made more effective.

Solicitors: Capsticks, Putney; Heptonstalls, Goole.

No right to oral Parole Board hearing

Regina v Parole Board, Ex parte Mansell

Before Lord Justice Otton and Mr Justice Newman

[Judgment March 7]

An offender serving a longer than normal fixed term sentence imposed under section 2(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 had no right to an oral hearing before the Parole Board.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application for judicial review by Craig Mansell of a decision of the board dated August 9, 1995 on his suitability for parole.

On March 5, 1993 Mansell was sentenced for three indecent assaults on a man to five years imprisonment, half of which was imposed, pursuant to section 2(2)(b) of the 1991 Act as over and above the sentence deemed appropriate to the seriousness of the offence, for the protection of the public.

On June 15, 1995 the Parole Board considered his case and followed its normal practice of not permitting the prisoner an oral hearing and deciding the case on the papers.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Miss Phillippa Kaufmann for Mansell: Mr Robert Jay for the Parole Board and the Home Secretary as interested party.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that sections 32 and 34 of the 1991 Act provided for parole review and it was now recognised that the bare requirements of those provisions could be supplemented where fairness required: see *R v Parole Board, Ex parte Wilson* ([1992] QB 740) and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* ([1994] 1 AC 531).

Pursuant to section 32(5) the secretary of state had made the Parole Board Rules 1992 which made provision for an oral hearing by Parole Board panels. They were, however, expressed to apply only to those prisoners who were serving discretionary life sentences and to the board's consideration of their cases for release under sections 34 and 39 of the 1991 Act.

The secretary of state had made no rules under section 32(5) regarding fixed term sentence prisoners although, pursuant to section 32(6), he had given directions as to the substantive principles to apply when determining the release and recall of such prisoners.

Mr Fitzgerald submitted that at the time of the decision Mansell had already served in full the two and a half year period that was commensurate with the seriousness of his offence, the punitive element, and the sole purpose and justification for his continued detention was to prevent him causing serious harm to the public so that he had entered the purely preventive phase of his detention.

The board should therefore have considered only whether his continued detention was necessary to prevent serious harm to the public.

The secretary of state and the board had failed to acknowledge that section 2(2)(b) detainees in the preventive phase should attract the same safeguards as discretionary lifers.

His Lordship could not accede to those arguments. In the present case the sentencing judge stated that the appropriate sentence would have been two and a half years but in order to protect the public the proper sentence was five years.

There was no provision requiring a formal court order fixing the length of the retributive or deterrent part of the sentence. The Court of Appeal had not spelt out such an obligation either in the present case (see (1994) 15 Cr App R (S) 771) or any other.

That was in distinct contrast to section 34(1)(b) which required such a period to be stated in the case of a discretionary life sentence.

When the court imposed a section 2(2) sentence, other than a discretionary life sentence, under (a) the sentence was for such time as in the opinion of the court was commensurate with the seriousness of the offence, sometimes called the "paradigm determinate sentence".

Alternatively, under (b) the sentence was for such longer term "as in the opinion of the court" was necessary to protect the public from serious harm. In other words Parliament had specifically imposed upon the sentencer the responsibility to carry out what Mr Jay termed a prospective exercise.

Moreover, by section 2(2)(b) the test for the sentencing court was whether the term was necessary to protect the public from serious harm from the offender. That was not the same requirement as in section 34(4)(b) in which the statutory test for the Parole Board was whether "it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined".

Thus it did not follow that once the first part of a section 2(2)(b) sentence, if identified, had expired there was a right to be released if he was no longer a risk. Thus, in his Lordship's judgment, the sentence under section 2(2)(b) was conceptually different from a discretionary life sentence, nor was it a hybrid sentence.

The judge fixed the whole of the length of the sentence under section 2(2)(b) and that placed the sentence in the same category as any other finite custodial sentence. Consequently the section 2(2)(b) prisoner was in the same position as any other determinate prisoner.

There was no special provision in section 33 or section 35 for persons serving determinate sentences within section 2(2)(b). Thus a person sentenced under 2(2)(a) to five years which the court considered was commensurate with the seriousness of the offence and a person sentenced under section 2(2)(b) for a violent or sexual offence to a longer term of five years because the court considered it necessary to protect he public from serious harm, had the same right to be considered by the board at the end of two and a half years.

In his Lordship's view, if Parliament had intended to impose on the board a specific duty to decide on the length of the preventive period in the case of a determinate sentence with a section 2(2)(b) element or to deal with such a sentence "as if it were a discretionary life sentence" it could have done so and Parliament must be taken to have intended not to impose such a duty.

On that analysis, his Lordship was unable to spell out in favour of a section 2(2)(b) prisoner a right to an oral hearing before the board as a matter of fairness. It would be open to the court to do so where the statute was silent or ambivalent or that natural justice so required.

In his Lordship's view, the statute was understandably silent, there was no ambivalence and he did not consider natural justice did so require.

Moreover, to grant exceptionally a right to an oral hearing to a section 2(2)(b) prisoner and not to extend it to other determinate prisoners would be both illogical and result in a sense of injustice for the latter category.

Discretionary life prisoners were a unique category, along with those detained during her Majesty's pleasure following the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Hussain v UK; Singh v UK* (*The Times* February 26, 1996).

The secretary of state had recognised that more than normal fairness required an oral hearing for such prisoners and in order to bring the UK in line with their obligations arising out of article 5(4) of the European Convention on Human Rights (1953, Cmd 8969).

The section 2(2)(b) prisoner was not in the same category. There was no reason why in principle, logic or fairness the common law should create a right to a section 2(2)(b) prisoner which was a special right of the discretionary life prisoner.

His Lordship was satisfied that the process by which a prisoner was permitted to state his case to the Parole Board as a whole afforded him a sufficient and fair opportunity to put his case. It was not in any event open to contend before the court that the Board had acted in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brind* ([1991] 1 AC 696).

Mr Justice Newman agreed.

Solicitors: Paul Rooney & Co, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

Office use precludes industrial allowance

Girobank plc v Clarke (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Lindsay

[Judgment March 4]

For corporation tax purposes, expenditure of £7.1 million on a modern building designed and constructed as a document and data processing centre did not qualify for an allowance under the provisions of section 18 of the Capital Allowances Act 1990. Although the building was an "industrial building or structure" as defined in section 18(1)(e) of the Act it was in use as an "office" within the meaning of section 18(4) and was thus expressly excluded from the definition.

Mr Justice Lindsay so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal, but for different reasons, by the taxpayer company, Girobank plc, from a determination of Mr M. J. F. Palmer, a deputy special commissioner, upholding in principle an assessment to corporation tax for the period to December 31, 1991.

The allowance was given for expenditure on industrial buildings or structures defined in section 18(1)(e) of the 1990 Act as including buildings in use "for the purposes of a trade which consists in the manufacture of goods or materials or the subjection of goods or materials to any process".

Section 18(4) excluded from that definition "any building or structure in use as, or as part of, a dwelling house, retail shop, showroom, hotel or office. . .".

Mr Peter Whiteman, QC, who did not appear below, for the company; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LINDSAY said that the building, the Wigan Centre, contained 64,500 square feet of operational processing space used by Girobank for its highly organised system for the prompt daily delivery to it from a countrywide network of post offices of the paperwork created to record cash and other credits deposited every day with Post Office Counters Ltd and a highly mechanised method of quickly processing that paperwork. The work was done with the assistance of a large number of special purpose machines.

Thus documents were read visually, sorted into batches, clips and staples removed and cheques were encoded with magnetically readable print and recorded on disc and tape. Some 340 personnel were employed at the centre.

Plainly the words "goods or materials" in section 18(1)(e) had to be given a meaning broad enough to cover both those manufactured and those subjected to a process short of or different from manufacture. Moreover, "materials" could not consist wholly of raw materials as the subsection contemplated materials which had been manufactured.

The Crown, relying on *Kilmarnock Equitable Cooperative Building Society Ltd v IRC* ([1966] 42 TC 675) and *Vibroplant Ltd v Holland* ([1981] 1 All ER 526), argued that there was at the centre no subjection to a relevant process because to satisfy section 18(1)(e) it was "goods or materials" rather than information that had to be processed, the process had to be of an industrial character and had to be such that the goods or materials were thereby altered.

But those authorities gave no support for a process having necessarily to alter the goods or materials in issue nor that the process should be "industrial". Mr Whiteman had further authority on the point: *Buckingham v Securitas Properties Ltd* ([1980] 1 WLR 380).

Drawing together the legislation and the authorities, there was nothing to limit the very broad width of the words "any process" to those of an "industrial" character. Nor was it required of a process that it altered the goods and materials subjected to it in any way.

Moreover, there was no requirement of a process that it should be done with a view to a sale of the goods, provided that the process connoted a substantial measure of uniformity of treatment or system of treatment.

In the light of the facts the paper, having arrived at the centre, was subjected to the processes described and section 18(1)(e) was satisfied.

Was, then, the centre an "office" within section 18(4) of the Act? There was no direct authority on the meaning of the word. In *IRC v Lambhill Ironworks Ltd* ([1950] 31 TC 393) Lord Cooper, Lord President, said that one had to look at the building as a whole and by reference to its predominant purposes or use.

The data processing centre was where the speedy processing of paperwork and the adding of information to it took place. Many of the employees sat at keyboards.

The machines, under the guidance of their operators, performed functions that in the past were performed manually by clerks. On the facts there was ample evidence to support a finding that the centre was an office and thus excluded from the section 18(1)(e) definition.

Girobank had given notice seeking to raise a new point not put to the commissioner: whether the centre came within section 18(1)(a) of the Act as being a "mill . . . or other similar premises".

The company could not in the circumstances be allowed to raise that new point and even if it had been allowed to do so it would not have succeeded on it.

Solicitors: Mr G. A. Morgan, Hove; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Council officers personally liable for costs

Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte Wilson

Before Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

[Judgment February 28]

Individual officers of a local authority dealing with a homeless person's case were personally liable for wasted costs arising from fact that the authority's decision not to contest a challenge by judicial review was made only at the eleventh hour.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so stated when adjudicating on an adjourned application for costs against the London Borough of Lambeth. His Lordship had earlier granted Donna Wilson's application to quash the authority's decision that the accommodation offered to her was suitable.

Mr Terence Gallivan for Ms Wilson; Mr Michael Magloire for the local authority.

HIS LORDSHIP said that two issues arose: whether, and in what circumstances, the court had power to make an order for costs against individual officers of a respondent local authority who were not parties to the proceedings; and if the power existed, whether it should be exercised in the present case.

The wasted costs procedure was introduced by section 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, amending section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Section 51(3) of the 1981 Act had been interpreted liberally to enable the court to make an order that costs be paid other than by a party to the proceedings, albeit by a person who would necessarily have some connection with the proceedings: see *Aiden Shipping Co Ltd v Interbulk* ([1986] 1 AC 965, 980F). On that basis, officers working in the housing department of the authority would appear to qualify.

In *Symphony Group plc v Hodgson* ([1994] QB 179) the Court of Appeal reviewed the case law in which the court had been prepared to order a non-party to pay costs.

One class of person identified was the person who had some management responsibility for the party's operation, for example, the director of an insolvent company who caused the company improperly to prosecute or defend proceedings. The fact that he could not qualify as a legal representative for the purposes of the wasted costs jurisdiction in section 51(6) did not prevent his being ordered to pay costs under the court's general power under section 51(3).

His Lordship accepted Mr Gallivan's submission that the authority was a statutory corporation: see *Hazell v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council* ([1992] 2 AC 1, 4D-E). Its legal status was, therefore, analogous to that of a company incorporated under the Companies Acts.

Mr Gallivan further submitted that, per Lord Justice Balcombe in *Symphony Group plc* the court might order costs against a non-party company director where the latter failed to give any careful thought to the basis on which proceedings should be conducted and had behaved irresponsibly.

As to when the exceptional power should be applied, his Lordship adopted and adapted the Court of Appeal's approach in *Ridehalgh v Horsefield* ([1994] Ch 205), in respect of the exercise of the power under section 51(6). The three-stage process could be framed as follows:

First, had the person of whom complaint was made acted improperly, unreasonably or negligently?

Second, if so, did such conduct cause the applicant to incur unnecessary costs?

Third, if so, was it, in all the circumstances, just to order the person to compensate the applicant for the whole or part of the relevant costs?

On the facts, there was no clearer case on the satisfaction of the criteria.

His Lordship added the following guidance for local authorities faced with the prospect of officials being held personally liable.

Had there been evidence from the chief executive, or some other senior officer, that the authority had been undergoing severe shortages, either financial or managerial, or that at the time the staffing of the department was similarly depleted because of resignations or ill health, the court would have had to weigh those matters in the balance before concluding that the individual officer responsible for dealing with the case had been irresponsible or negligent or had acted unreasonably. If such evidence were adduced the blame would lie elsewhere than with the staff.

Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Clapham; Mr David Tatlow, Lambeth.

Unspecified night flights order valid

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council and Others (No 4)

Before Mr Justice Jowitt

[Judgment March 8]

It was lawful for the Secretary of State for Transport to restrict the total number of night aircraft movements for an aggregate of periods at designated aerodromes, without specifying the maximum number of movements in respect of each separate period.

Mr Justice Jowitt, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an application for judicial review by Richmond upon Thames, Hillingdon and Hounslow London Borough Councils, Surrey County Council, Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council, and Slough Borough Council, against the secretary of state's decision announced in a press release on August 8, 1995 in respect of night flight restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports for various periods from October 22, 1995.

Section 73 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 provides: "(3) If the secretary of state considers it appropriate, for the purpose of avoiding, limiting or mitigating the effect of noise and vibration connected with the taking-off or landing of aircraft at a designated aerodrome, to prohibit aircraft from taking-off or landing, or limit the number of occasions on which they may take off or land, at the aerodrome during certain periods, he may by a notice published in the prescribed manner . . . (b) specify the maximum number of occasions on which aircraft of descriptions so specified may be permitted to take off or land at the aerodrome (otherwise than as aforesaid) during periods so specified. . ."

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Alan Maclean for the councils; Mr Ian Burnett and Ms Dinah Rose for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE JOWITT said that section 73(3)(b) was concerned with imposing limits which should not be exceeded. Having regard to the purpose of the statutory provision the use of the word "maximum" in subsection (3)(b) should be regarded as enlarging rather than restricting the statutory power to impose limits on the number of aircraft movements.

There was therefore power under subsection (3)(b) to impose limits both by reference to individual specified periods and to the aggregation of specified periods. The words which preceded paragraphs (a) to (c) in subsection (3) allowed the secretary of state to do all or any of the things permitted by those paragraphs. If the secretary of state decided to exercise his power under one of the paragraphs he was not obliged to exercise every aspect of the power created by that paragraph. There was no reason why the subsection should be read so restrictively.

It was submitted that the decision was unlawful because although it set a permitted noise level for 1993-1998 less than the level permitted for the preceding period 1988-1993, the effect was to allow more noise than was actually experienced in summer 1988.

It was clear that the power under section 78(3) could only be used for the purpose of avoiding, limiting or mitigating the effect of noise and vibration generated by aircraft movements which, but for the exercise of that power, might not be avoided, limited or mitigated.

The comparison drawn by the subsection was not between what was proposed and what had been permitted by an earlier order, but between what was proposed and what the position would be if there were to be no order.

Solicitors: Richard Buxton, Cambridge; Treasury Solicitor.

Possibility of landlord's kitchen use restricts tenancy

The Mortgage Corporation Ltd v Ubah

Before Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 7]

Where under the terms of his tenancy the tenant was to share the use of kitchen with the landlord the tenancy was a restricted contract within section 21 of the Rent Act 1977 even though the landlord was incapable of making use of the kitchen.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the tenant, Mr Jerome Michael Ubah, from an order for possession made by Judge Green, QC, at Willesden County Court in favour of the landlord, The Mortgage Corporation Ltd.

Section 21 of the Rent Act 1977 provides: "Where under any contract — (a) a tenant has the exclusive occupation of any accommodation, and (b) the terms on which he holds the accommodation include the use of other accommodation in common with his landlord . . . and (c) by reason only of the circumstances mentioned in paragraph (b) . . . the accommodation referred to in paragraph (a) . . . is not a dwelling-house let on a protected tenancy, the contract is a restricted contract. . ."

Mr Declan O'Mahony for the tenant; Ms Joanna Youll for the landlord.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that a tenant whose tenancy included the right to share a kitchen with his landlord could not normally claim the benefit of security of tenure under the Rent Acts, however humble his accommodation might be. The reason was that the shared kitchen facility prevented his accommodation from being a separate dwelling-house within the terms of the legislation.

The principal question raised by the appeal was whether the tenant ceased to suffer that disadvantage if there was a change of lessor resulting in an individual landlord being replaced by a limited company. A corporation, it was suggested, being a mere creature of the law without appetite or culinary capability was incapable of submitting to a shared use of its kitchen because it could not itself make use of a kitchen at all.

The property concerned was a first and second floor maisonette at 28 Lydford Road, Cricklewood, London. On January 25, 1985 a long leasehold interest in the maisonette was acquired by a Nigerian lawyer, Chief Sado Oseghale. On August 8, 1989 he mortgaged the maisonette to the company for £85,000. The chief defaulted on the mortgage payments and the company obtained an order for possession of the maisonette on December 7, 1990.

Part of the maisonette was occupied, however, by Mr Ubah. He claimed to be a tenant of premises comprising one of the second floor bedrooms, the second floor bathroom and the first floor lounge. He also claimed to be entitled, under the terms of his tenancy, to the use of the kitchen.

According to his unchallenged evidence, the chief was not in permanent occupation of the remainder of the property. From time to time he authorised others to stay there, but he and his wife also stayed there on occasions.

On May 17, 1991 the tenant obtained an order that the warrant for possession obtained by the company as landlord be stayed so far as he was concerned and that the possession order take effect subject to his tenancy. The landlord then served him with, inter alia, a notice to quit, and sought to obtain a possession order against him on the basis that he was a tenant under a restricted contract under section 21 of the 1977 Act.

On December 1, 1994 the judge found that the tenant occupied the premises under a restricted contract within the terms of section 21. In so finding he rejected the tenant's plea that the sharing arrangements regarding the kitchen had lapsed, so far as the landlord was concerned, as a result of the lessor's corporate status. The judge made a possession order.

Mr O'Mahony submitted that a limited company was incapable, both as a matter of law and in the nature of its limitations as a corporate individual without human personality, of exercising rights as personal as those involved in the user of a kitchen in common with another person.

For his part, his Lordship found it unnecessary to decide whether that submission was correct or not. That was not because it was unarguable. One could doubtless have an interesting debate as to how far a company entitled to exercise such rights could, in theory at least, exercise them through individuals acting as its duly appointed officers or agents. It was because the submission missed the main point of the issue, which was whether the sharing arrangements, notwithstanding that they might not for the time being be exercised, nevertheless remained exercisable.

In answering that question, which went to the heart of the case, his Lordship would be prepared to assume in favour of the tenant, that it was indeed the case that for so long as the landlord under a tenancy of such a kind happened to be a limited company it would be impossible for the landlord, because of the disabilities imposed by its corporate status, to exercise user rights in the kitchen.

It by no means followed, however, that those rights had become forfeited. They were merely in abeyance. Landlords came and went. The reversion might change hands and if it passed to an individual again, it would once again become possible and practicable for the rights of kitchen user to become common rights.

The position was no different from that which obtained when the landlord whose kitchen the tenant was entitled to share was an individual who became permanently or temporarily incapacited through illness or infirmity from exercising the functions of common kitchen use.

There was in both cases a lull in the day-to-day exercise by the landlord of the rights of user of his kitchen, matched by a corresponding lull in the liability of the tenant to have his own use of the kitchen disturbed by the landlord. But what mattered was not whether rights were in fact being exercised, but whether they were there to be exercised as and when the party entitled to them was capable of doing so.

The fact that at the date of the commencement of the possession proceedings the tenant was enjoying a free run of the kitchen which had once belonged to the chief but now belonged to the company therefore availed him nothing. The judge was correct to hold that the landlord's continuing right prevented the premises from qualifying as "premises let as a separate dwelling" under section 1 and that they were therefore outside the protection of the 1977 Act.

Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Hodders, Willesden; Berensons, South Kensington.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Transfer of undertaking

Mercks and Another v Ford Motors Co Belgium SA

Joined Cases C-171/94 and C-172/94

There was a transfer of an undertaking where a business holding a motor vehicle dealership for a particular territory discontinued its activities and the dealership was then transferred to another business which took on part of the staff and was recommended to customers, without any transfer of assets.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities (Sixth Chamber) so held on March 7, giving a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty on references dated June 15, 1994 by the Cour du Travail, Brussels, on a question of interpretation of Council Directive 77/187/EEC of February 14, 1977 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses (OJ 1977 L61 p26).

The Court said that in the light of the principles in Case C-29/91 *Dr Sophie Redmond Stichting v Bartol* ([1992] ECR I-3189), and the circumstances taken as a whole, article 1(1) of the directive, which provided that the directive was to apply to "the transfer of an undertaking . . . to another employer as a result of a legal transfer or merger" applied.

The Court also held that if an employee objected to the continuation of his employment by the transferee, it was for the member states to determine what the fate of the contract of employment or employment relationship with the transferor should be.

However, where that contract or relationship was terminated because the transfer involved a change in the employee's level of remuneration to his detriment, article 4(2) of the directive required the member states to provide that the employer was to be regarded as having been responsible for the termination.



■ FILM 1

A slick commercial package, yes, but Disney's new *Toy Story* also proves to be delightful



■ FILM 2

Vietnam's urban nightmare is pretentiously treated in Tran Anh Hung's latest, *Cyclo*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ FILM 3

Its heart may be in the right place, but miscalculated whimsy mars the gay satire of *Jeffrey*



■ TOMORROW

How does Richard O'Brien fare in *Disgracefully Yours*? Benedict Nightingale gives his verdict

CINEMA: The stars of *Toy Story* may come from a computer, says **Geoff Brown**, but the emotions are definitely human

Laugh, cry, buy the doll



Soon to be seen on a Christmas list near you, Woody the cowboy and Buzz Lightyear the astronaut square off in Disney's dazzling *Toy Story*

Looked at from one angle, *Toy Story* could be taken as the ultimate expression of dehumanised cinema. This is an animated film, but nobody picked up a pencil or brush to create the images seen on screen: instead they sat pressing keys or pushing a mouse. It was all done by computer.

And, with its cast of toys, the film, produced for the Disney empire, is a merchandiser's dream. What child would not crave their very own Woody, the endearing cowboy marionette voiced by Tom Hanks, or the bumptious space ranger Buzz Lightyear, with his folding wings and push button-operated laser beams?

Toy Story is a slick commercial package, but it is not soulless. John Lasseter's Pixar Animation Studios, practised in shorts such as the Oscar-winning *Tin Toy*, uses its first feature for something beyond technical stunts. It has a story to tell — a parable, almost, about belonging and friendship — and it crams the drama with comedy, chases, thrills, spills and recognisable human emotions.

It also manages to keep every age group entertained. When we hear that the toys hold "plastic erosion awareness" meetings, adults will probably laugh. The more cynical kids, meanwhile, may appreciate Sid, the delinquent child across the street, who cannibalises toys to create bizarre mutants. Simpler souls may enjoy Hamm, the know-all piggybank, Slinky the dog or the platoon of Green Army Men, ready for deployment at any emergency.

The film begins with Andy, a six-year-old boy, playing with his toys, especially Woody, an old-fashioned cowboy whose voice box contains a few choice phrases, such as "You're my favourite deputy" and "Somebody's poisoned the waterhole". But the story begins once Andy leaves and the toys come to life to argue, frolic and express their big fear: the fear of being replaced by a new toy. Andy's birthday brings Buzz Lightyear, who immediately becomes his favourite. To add to Woody's irritation, bumptious Buzz (voiced by Tim Allen) believes he is a real space ranger, not a toy, a notion knocked from his noddle during adventures in the dangerous world outside Andy's room.

The film's look is amazing. The camera darts and swoops over settings with the sleek, sharp contours of super-realist paintings or Charles Sheeler's industrial landscapes. Detail is pared down, but precise: note the scuffs and scratches on the skirting board around Andy's room. Some of the toys remain one-joke objects, but Woody and Buzz grow in stature, and their progress from enmity to friendship is entirely convincing. Hanks and Allen's voices play a key part in the humanising process; but the pair would not come to life as they do without the range of expressions on their three-dimensional faces. Although the credits list the names of five dogs used for "*live action dog reference*", no mention is made of the veteran actors who must, in part, have inspired Buzz and Woody: Buzz resembles a chunky Kirk Douglas, while Woody's gosh-darn lanky face suggests the young James Stewart.

The credits also list a "digital massage therapist". The mind boggles. But whatever unfathomable technology brought *Toy Story* into being, the completed film is delightfully user-friendly.

Admirers of *The Scent of Green Papaya* may be taken aback by **Cyclo**, the brazen, uncomfortable second feature from the Vietnamese-born director Tran Anh Hung. Gone is the poised, immaculate, artificial look of the streets and rooms of period Saigon, recreated in a Paris studio. Instead, Tran hurls us into the real-life bustle of contemporary Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), with its teeming streets, incessant noise and lurking violence. At some points the camera sweeps around grandly in a social-realist mode, taking in housing façades and traffic before eventually landing on the key character or action.

Elsewhere, the camera moves in tightly for a cryptic, surrealist image: an insect crawling along a lip, a face doused with paint or a jet of blood spurting from a knifed neck. But whatever the camera does, it shows off.

The film's ostentation grows apace as the narrative disintegrates. The basic thread of Tran's script is simple. Le Van Loc, the young hero — nobody is given a name — drives a cyclo (a bicycle rickshaw), ferrying passengers through the clogged streets. While he is attending a call of nature, his vehicle is stolen; to recoup its cost he falls in with a criminal gang run by the Poet (Tony Leung), a brooding figure who also serves as pimp for the hero's sister. But the further the cyclo driver delves into crime, the more oblique the director's approach becomes; and the pursuit of startling images, ousts old-fashioned things such as motivation and character development.

The film's visceral impact is astonishing: this is *Trainspotting* for the art houses. *Cyclo* may also reward attention as a despairing portrait of Vietnam's urban hell from an outside observer (Tran moved to France at the age of 12). But there comes a point after so much mingling of beauty and horror, so much noise and blood, so many artful shots of lizards and fish where you cannot be dazzled anymore: you want a film with a human face. *Cyclo* does not have one.

"Hate Aids, not life," is the message thumped out in *Jeffrey* (*see feature below*). It is an uplifting message to be sure, although its delivery is heavy-handed. On the stage, Paul Rudnick's play was by all accounts a merry carnival of sketches, barbs and gay variations on romantic-comedy conventions; but this transfer to film, under the aegis of its New York stage director, Christopher Ashley, signally lacks the party spirit.

Jeffrey, played by Steve Weber, is an arch ditherer. For safety's sake, he decides to avoid sex; then Steve comes along, the man of his dreams. Should he commit? To fill the gaps while he makes up his mind, Rudnick and Ashley offer fantasy sequences with Mother Teresa, a television quiz show called *It's Just Sex*, a dreadful cameo from Sigourney Weaver as a New Age evangelist, and lots of banter with Patrick Stewart's flamboyant interior designer. At best you get the odd biting line of dialogue. At worst you suffer arch whimsy, tired faggot stereotypes and grotesque miscalculations, such as the sudden cut to popcorn munchers watching the film in a cinema, gulping at a passionate gay kiss.

Jeffrey has its heart in the right place, but the issues at stake — life, death, happiness — are just too important for audiences to swallow its faults with a smile.

Appearing briefly at the Prince Charles cinema before its debut next week on video, **Rhythm Thief** flings the viewer down on New York's Lower East Side for a grainy, downbeat and exasperating 90 minutes. The company includes a seller of bootleg punk rock cassettes who eats peanut butter with a screwdriver; a loopy girl who has her mother's poetry written on her arms; and a fast-talking dude who seems to be auditioning to be Quentin Tarantino.

Surprisingly, the film brought Matthew Harrison the Best Director prize at the Sundance festival last year. He has energy and resilience in plenty: he shot all the footage in ten days at a cost of $10,000. But the film's gloomy posturing soon sends it down a cul-de-sac; and Harrison's assumption that frenetic, hand-held, black-and-white camerawork equals real life needs to be questioned. In this case, it equals irritation.

Toy Story
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 81 mins
A computer-animated delight

Cyclo
MGM Swiss Centre
18, 129 mins
Life is hell in Ho Chi Minh City

Jeffrey
MGM Shaftesbury Ave
18, 92 mins
Well-intentioned but arch gay comedy

Rhythm Thief
Prince Charles
18, 84 mins
No-budget grunge from New York

'Refreshingly simple'

Every week young film fans discuss new releases...

SNAP VERDICT

TOY STORY

Jenny Dawson, 20: I was laughing all the way through. This is a definite must-see; you don't need to be a kid.

Lizanne Rose, 22: Amusing, but definitely for the under-12s.

Suzie Gilbert, 18: I preferred this to the normal Disney animations — much more light-hearted and it looked refreshingly simple. However, I think it's something you are more likely to watch on the TV on Christmas Day than pay money to see.

Stuart Fennegan, 19: Excellent. The plot was good — more than just an excuse to have an animated story.

RHYTHM THIEF

Jenny: It was very difficult to get involved in this; I felt nothing for the main character. But it was watchable enough as its style was so different to the normal Hollywood genre.

Lizanne: This is probably the worst film I've seen in a long time. The director used every possible camera technique to compensate for a poor script and weak acting.

Stuart: I found this very strange; I started not liking it, but it grew on me. I liked the camera techniques, but the acting was truly awful.

Suzie: It wouldn't be fair to look for wham-bam action in this film as it is more an exploration of the male character. This takes time, so some of the scenes are sluggish, but overall it works well.

JEFFREY

Suzie: This reminded me of those terrible Eighties American comedies. This was supposed to break stereotypes about gay men, but it ended up reinforcing them.

Stuart: It was fairly amusing, but I wouldn't tell anybody to expect too much.

Jenny: I was so bored it even made *Rhythm Thief* look good.

Lizanne: The plot is simple and predictable, but the love/lust dilemma of Jeffrey is consistently funny. It manages to neither over-sentimentalise nor trivialise the subject.

Pounding the pink drum

Mainstream acceptance has led to a plethora of films on gay and lesbian topics. **David Robinson** reports

The love that dared not speak its name now boisterously proclaims it in mainstream movies. Christopher Ashley's *Jeffrey* is one of 20 feature films made in the past year which are showing in the tenth London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, opening tonight.

Since Tom Hanks played in *Philadelphia*, leading stars are much less nervous about appearing as sexual non-conformists. Eric Roberts plays a homosexual defiantly facing death from Aids in *It's My Party*, directed by Randal Kleiser, who made *Grease*, and with a supporting cast including Olivia Newton-John, Roddy MacDowell and George Segal. Paul Mercurio, from *Strictly Ballroom*, appears in Charles Winkler's *Ribbon Blues*, a comedy about politically correct gay criminals pitted against pharmaceutical corporations profiteering from Aids drugs.

Though most of the films are British or American, a few come from further afield. Ryosuke Hashiguchi's *Like Grains of Sand* is an anguished and touching two-hour saga of repressed passion in a Japanese boys' high school. Yee Chih Yen's cheerful comedy of sexual entanglements, *Lonely Hearts Club*, comes from Taiwan. The most exotic entry, though, is Shanna Serikbajewa's *Life is a Woman*, depicting lesbian love in a Kazakhstan prison.

Generally, the film-makers in this year's festival appear less constrained than in the past by the need to make propaganda. Sexual orientation is now secondary to a good story. Even the most mythical moment in gay political history, the 1969 Stonewall riots, becomes the background for personal histories in the late Nigel Finch's *Stonewall*.

The long odyssey to this sexual liberation is related in *The Celluloid Closet*, directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein. Hollywood, assessing the puritanical squeamishness of the American audience, steered clear of anything off-colour. "It was", Gore Vidal recalls, "like writing for the Kremlin. You learnt to write between the lines."

The audience learnt to read between the lines: there were cherished icons for those who perceived them: Mrs Danvers's reverence for the dead Mrs de Winter's underclothes in *Rebecca*; Joan Crawford's leather gear in *Johnny Guitar*; John Ireland and Montgomery Clift expressing strange passions with pistols in *Red River*; Sal Mineo's worship of James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*.

The Celluloid Closet recalls the landmarks that finally brought the other sexualities into the open on the American screen. The commercial success of a 1961 English film, Basil Dearden's *Victim*, in which Dirk Bogarde — with astounding courage for the time — played a homosexual, first opened the doors. For a long time, though, the fate of screen homosexuals (unless they were "sissy" character comics) was invariably last-reel death. A macabre high point of *The Celluloid Closet* is a montage holocaust of the violent deaths of Hollywood screen homosexuals.

The breakthrough came in the Seventies. *The Boys in the Band* may have been tormented, but at least they stayed alive; and *Cabaret* presented its homosexual hero (Michael York) without fuss or comment.

Although shot in America, *The Celluloid Closet* was produced by Channel 4, which will screen it on television later in the year.

● *The London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival begins tonight at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232)*

NEXT THURSDAY

THE TIMES SCREEN WRITING COMPETITION

How to enter *The Times* Screenwriting Competition and win a trip to Hollywood to pitch your idea for a film to five leading studios

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA'

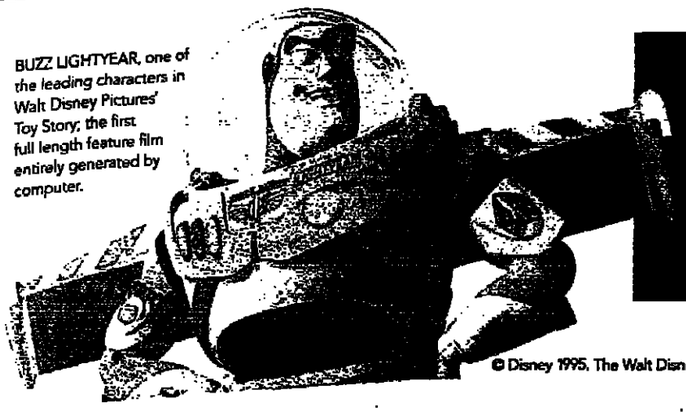
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CHOICE 1

Christoph von Dohnányi brings his Cleveland Orchestra to town

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall



CHOICE 2

Isabelle Huppert plays *Mary Stuart* in Schiller's drama

VENUE: Opening night at the Lyttelton

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

Eleanor Bron takes the lead in Albee's *A Delicate Balance*

VENUE: Nottingham Playhouse, now in preview



YOUNG ARTS

How one of London's top youth orchestras mounts a performance of Puccini's *Tosca*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

OHIO ADVENTURE: Do not miss tonight's all too rare chance to hear the Cleveland Orchestra: its programmes are invariably a delicious mix of meaty works, meticulously rehearsed and full of adventure. Music director Christoph von Dohnányi conducts Ligeti's miniature *Atmosphères*, Schumann's Symphony No 1, *Spring*, and Stravinsky's *Firebird*.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 7.30pm

MARY STUART: Opening night for Isabelle Huppert, making her English stage debut in the title role of Schiller's great drama. Anna Massey plays the Virgin Queen and Howard Davies directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight, 7pm Then Fri-Tue, 7.30pm In rep

NOW YOU KNOW: A pre-West End tour of Michael Frayn's stylish serious comedy stars Adam Faith as head of an organisation dedicated to unearthing political secrets. Intelligent and diverting, some good, lively writing, but it received mixed reviews at Hampstead last year for its inconsistencies.
Richmond, The Green, Richmond (0181-940 0088) Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Lovers of Paganini's style should hurry to tonight's **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** concert when Alexander Lazarev conducts both Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini* and Lutoslawski's *Variations on a theme of Paganini*. John Lill is the soloist for a programme that includes Ravel and Mussorgsky's ever-popular *Pictures at an Exhibition*
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (0141-227 5511) 7.30pm

IPSWICH: Six actors play more than 30 characters in Geoffrey Beevers's excellent adaptation of George Eliot's **Adam Bede**. A great example of how to transfer the spirit of a book to the stage
Wolsey, Civic Drive (01473 253725) Opens tonight, 7.45pm Then Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm Until Mar 30

NOTTINGHAM: Eleanor Bron plays one of the troubled middle-agers in **A Delicate Balance**, Edward Albee's darkly humorous and passionate play about neighbourliness. Tom Cairns directs what may be the first revival since the RSC production in the 1970s.
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115-941 9419). Previews, tonight-Sat, and opens Mon, 7.30pm. Until Apr 6.

SHEFFIELD: Some of the best of contemporary dance comes on stage in this season's Danceworks festival, including tonight's performances from the team of **Motionhouse Dance** and **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group**, and three nights of the magical Dance Bites tour from the **Royal Ballet**.
Box Office: (0114-276 9922)

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Beirut: Uncovering the Past (0171-636 1555) . . **Hayward**: Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . . **National Gallery**: At Home with Constable's *Cornfield* (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery**: The Room in View (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy**: London Original Print Fair (0171-439 7439) . . **Serpentine**: Jean-Michel Basquiat (0171-723 9072) . . **Tate**: Cézanne (0171-887 8000 / 0990 561 010) . . **V & A**: The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

◪ **BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH** Award-winning first play from yet another Irish prodigy. Jimmy Murphy's comic tragedy of three Dublin house painters pitted against each other by their demanding boss. A Soho Theatre Co co-production directed by Rough Magic's Lynne Parker.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm: Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm Opens Mar 25, 7pm.

◪ **CHAPTER TWO** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

□ **DISGRACEFULLY YOURS.** Richard O'Brien plays the satanic host at Club Inferno, giving his rock tour of Hell assisted by the Fabulous Frockettes and a band of Black Angels. Said to be witty and spirited
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat 6pm and 8.30pm.

□ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. The *Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737) Wed-Sat, 8pm; Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm

□ **HARRY AND ME.** Sheila Hancock, Ron Cook and Dudley Sutton in new Nigel Williams play, a dark comedy recording the death throes of an appalling chat show
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Previews tonight-Tue, 7.30pm. Opens Mar 27, 7pm

□ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **MORE THAN KISSES** A success at last year's Edinburgh. Graeme Messer and Claire Basel's play with music: a woman's obsession for a gay man and his for dangerous sex.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Thurs and Sat-Sun, 7.45pm; Fri, 8.15pm.

□ **SKYLIGHT** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

◪ **TAP DOGS** Dein Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Previews tonight, Mon, 8pm: Fri, Sat, 6pm, 8.45pm Opens Mar 28.

■ **TOMMY**: Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman and Dolroy Lindo.
Empire ◪ (0171-437 1234) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

THE MOST TERRIBLE TIME OF MY LIFE. Kaizo Hayashi's viewable pastiche thriller, with Masatoshi Nagase as a Yokohama detective.
ICA ◪ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from director Oliver Stone.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

TOY STORY. See review, page 35
Leicester Square (01426 915683) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the *Shallow Grave* team. With Ewan McGregor and Ewen Bremner. Director, Danny Boyle
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritz** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **RESTORATION** (15): Life and loves of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr.) Costume extravaganza loses its way. With Sam Neill and Meg Ryan, director, Michael Hoffman.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons:**

Hilary Finch watches a youth orchestra preparing a bold excursion into Puccini

Tosca treated to teenage touch

YOUNG AT art

If you ever fancied your chances in *Tosca*, now is the time to turn up. On Saturday, the Church of St Barnabas in Ealing will be transformed into the interior of Sant'Andrea della Valle: the words of the Act I *Te Deum* will be printed in the programme, and the audience will be expected to sing along. Puccini's opera is also playing at the Coliseum, and if you want to hear one or two soloists from English National Opera's second team, the church is where to find them.

The Ealing Youth Orchestra is back on the boards. Under their conductor, Mark Gooding, they put on an opera — or part of one — every year. "We have done Wagner, Strauss, Bartók, so it seemed about time for Puccini. And since we often play in St Barnabas, and this opera is set in a church..." Gooding may sound brusque and blasé, but he knows what his band is made of. *Götterdämmerung* and *Bluebeard* hold no terrors for his players.

Since Gooding joined them ten years ago, they have discovered that they have a healthy appetite for the crunchy modern scores of Mark-Anthony Turnage — they have performed all his major orchestral works — and that Mozart and Schubert is where the problems really begin. Which, of course, is just as it should be.

Every May, the Ealing Youth Orchestra does a major orchestral programme; a pops concert follows in July. During their annual summer tour of Brittany they fill St Malo Cathedral to capacity. And every January there's a concert focusing on their own instrumental soloists.

The orchestra is 30 years old: its members range from 11 to 20. One of the first bands to spring up in the 1960s during the heady flush of local peripatetic teaching provision, it now survives with a strong core of parental support, a small local-authority grant, and a busy box office.

The rigorous and gritty Gooding has raised standards to the point where an average of three members a year find themselves in the National Youth Orchestra, and many go on into the profession. Mark-Anthony Turnage, who is all but composer-in-residence, so strong is his support for the band, sees the EYO as a "melting pot for musicians", and claims that their performances of works of his such as *Three Screaming Popes*, *Drowned Out* and *Momentum* have been "as good as any professional performance". He can't wait for the chance to write a major piece for them.

Gooding, though, emphasises that the main value of the orchestra is for players who will never go into the profession. "Those who will really suffer from our instrumental services being cut are not the orchestras, not the professionals, but the average, normal kid who wants something really worthwhile to do on a Friday night.

"To make music to the very best of their ability, to take pride in doing something incredibly well. This is their social life. Young people's music-making is the lifeblood of this country."

> "I don't see myself ever leaving this orchestra"

And in rehearsal, that blood is on the boil. First the overture to Verdi's *Force of Destiny*. "Violins only! Now *heel*! Come on, you can't play it up here. HEEL!" It feels like Crufts on a bad day. Then Respighi. *The Pines of Rome* are shuddering. "Sing it! Don't attack it and die. No retakes. Now the last movement. From eighteen." A fine *pianissimo* breathes out from the second violins. "Far too loud. One hair only. Less contact. No sound at all." And, at last, *Tosca*. A yelp of disappointment at the very start. "Aw! You didn't enjoy the A against the B flat!" Cavaradossi dreams of Tosca. "Now it does happen that there can be applause there. So let's hear it for Cavaradossi." A riot of handclapping, whistling, bawling. "Yeah. Okay. That did sound a bit like La Scala.

"But you do go sharp, you know. Makes it sound just a little bit cheap. School orchestras, y'know." Gooding focuses on Puccini's linguistic flexibility, on his pacing of the drama. The agitation of Angelotti, the quirkiness of the Sacristan, the dreams of Cavaradossi. "I try and explain things to them as well. That it's not just about three gruesome characters who murder each other. You've got to understand the relationship of Napoleon to the Italians, to the intellectuals and the Republicans, and all that sort of thing. Makes it less tacky. I don't give them half measure, you know."

Michael Lloyd, principal trombone, and now in his first year at the Royal Academy, takes a break by the tea urn. "I'm stupidly busy at the Academy, but I don't see myself ever leaving this orchestra. I wouldn't have got into the NYO or the Academy without Mark. Some of my best experiences have been with this orchestra: *The Rite of Spring* when I was 12, Mahler Three in Acton Town Hall, the *Alpine Symphony*. I'm still paying back my debts. And I'm still learning!"

● The Ealing Youth Orchestra *is at St Barnabas Church, Pitshanger Lane, London W5 on Saturday, 7.30pm (0181-840 0866)*

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Members of the Ealing Youth Orchestra rehearsing for Puccini's *Tosca* at the Church of St Barnabas in Ealing

ENTERTAINMENTS

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SOCIETY OF WOMEN ARTISTS 135th Annual Exhibition at the Westminster Gallery, Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1. Open 22nd March - 2nd April. 10 am - 7 pm daily, excluding Sundays. Tel 0171 222 2723 during gallery hours. Admission free

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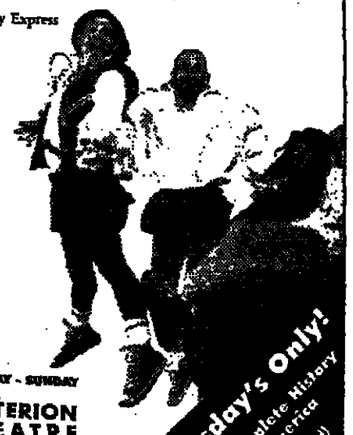
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■ DANCE

English National Ballet's *Alice* heralds the start of a new dance era at the Coliseum



■ THEATRE 1

The seedy side of Cardiff is explored at the *Donmar in Song from a Forgotten City*

THE TIMES ARTS



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You name it, we'll prove it: Modern Problems in Science apply a touch of the comic to the cosmic



■ MUSIC

In Birmingham, an entertaining evening of Stockhausen and the rest of the Fifties crowd

It's not a house, it's a home

DANCE: The future looks brighter for English National Ballet after its new deal with the Coliseum. **Debra Craine** reports

Derek Deane must have been feeling pretty pleased with himself on Tuesday night. His new *Alice in Wonderland* was making its London premiere in a royal gala performance attended by the Princess of Wales, while his company, English National Ballet, was back in the theatre it wants to call home.

When Deane took over as artistic director in 1993 he said that one of his priorities was to find a proper showcase for ENB in London, and he was determined that would be the Coliseum. It would not be easy: relations between English National Ballet and English National Opera — the Coliseum's landlords — had been unsettled for some time and ENB seasons at the Coliseum were patchy. But this week Deane has an agreement in his pocket that will see ENB taking up an annual Christmas residence at the Coliseum.

What this means is that after more than 45 years, ENB is severing its ties with the Festival Hall, which has provided a home for the company's *Nutcrackers* in London since 1950. While this may not be good news for the South Bank, it is good news for dancers and public alike. Festival Hall has never been an ideal venue for dance — it was designed as a concert hall, after all — and ENB's productions have never looked right there in the makeshift proscenium arch. The Coliseum, meanwhile, is the choicest dance space in the capital. No wonder the dancers were beaming when Deane told them the news.

There will be one final *Nutcracker* season at the Festival Hall this Christmas. After that, ENB will take up residence across the river and Deane will mark the move by choreographing a new production of *Nutcracker* for December 1997. With five weeks at its disposal in the Coliseum every year, ENB can also show London its other large-scale ballets at Christmas. And that's not all. New links between ENB and ENO have been forged; there is even talk of possible artistic collaborations between the two companies.

So, the future was looking rosy on Tuesday. If only the same could be said for the ballet taking place on stage. Deane's *Alice* was reviewed at its premiere in Southampton last October and its weaknesses pointed out then. A second viewing does not convince me that it has more to offer than some exceptionally pretty designs by Sue Blane, great stage effects by Blane and the illusionist Paul Kieve, and the familiarity of Lewis Carroll's eccentric, anthropomorphic creatures.

Alice in Wonderland
Coliseum

The music, a hotchpotch of Tchaikovsky sources arranged by Carl Davis, does not stand up dramatically, even though David Coleman worked hard in the pit at whipping up some kind of motive power. And without a musical framework that develops a theme and embellishes an emotional base, Deane's work as a choreographer is already doomed.

Alice (played enthusiastically by Alice Crawford) is more like an observer than a ballet heroine. She watches as the weird cast list parades before her: the White Rabbit, Caterpillar, Cheshire Cat, Mad Hatter and the Dormouse (a perky Marta Barahona) and the rest. None of them has enough interesting choreography to do more with their roles than mug and mime; a superficial reading is all they can hope for. Still, it is good to see English National Ballet back in the Coliseum for a run. Michael Corder's *Cinderella* gets its London bow next week, so, too, does Deane's updated *Giselle* (performed with Balanchine's *Square Dance*).

At long last the Coliseum appears to be becoming more dance-friendly. As well as taking in ENB on a regular basis, English National Opera will soon announce a Handel co-production with the Mark Morris Dance Group as part of its own 1996-97 season.

The theatre will also provide a summer home for the Royal Ballet during the closure of Covent Garden. Indeed, the closure of the Royal Opera House gives the Coliseum a golden opportunity to establish itself as the major dance house in London.

Meanwhile, an ENO feasibility study team is asking Coliseum audiences for their views on a future home for ENO and large-scale dance in London. It seems clear that whatever ENO plans for the Coliseum — which desperately needs refurbishment — dance will remain part of its thinking.

DEE CONWAY



Alice Crawford as the heroine in Derek Deane's production of *Alice in Wonderland*, which received its London premiere in a royal gala performance at the Coliseum on Tuesday night

RADIO

Read between the lines

The old order changeth. While the nation has been preoccupied with *the fine print of Peter* Hobday's contract at *Today* on Radio 4, Classic FM, far from rubbing its hands, has been gnashing its teeth.

Breakfast radio is always the focus of attention, for this is the time of day when radio comes into its own. So the Hobday hoo-haa has obscured the publicity from Classic for its first change of breakfast presenter since the station was launched four years ago.

On Monday Mike Read, former Radio 1 presenter, took over the slot from Nick Bailey, who is said to have had enough of the early rising. There is also a perception at Classic that a larger share of the breakfast audience is there for the taking and that Read could be the man to take it.

Read comes into the show with the audience curve on the rise, in contrast to most breakfast programmes. Those on *Radios 2 and 3* have dropped over the past year, while *Today*'s is holding. Bailey, by contrast, has increased his listening figure to 314,000, three times that for Radio 3.

The figures would be of less interest if breakfast shows were self-contained in audi*ence terms, as happens with* television at that hour. But anything Classic can do to improve the breakfast audience is good news for Henry Kelly and bad news for Radio 3.

Kelly comes to the microphone at 9am on Classic. It has become a rule of the audience research that whatever figure Classic's breakfast show is attracting, it increases by between 40,000 and 55,000 with the arrival of Kelly. By 10am each day, Kelly is attracting Classic's highest audience of the week.

Ergo, more for Read equals more for Kelly. This explains why Radio 3 put Paul Gambaccini head-to-head with Kelly. There is no evidence as to whether this has worked, but BBC research suggests "very high awareness" for Gambaccini.

Whether that translates into higher numbers remains to be seen, but Kelly v Gambaccini is shaping into a contest as significant as anything happening over breakfast.

PETER BARNARD

THEATRE: High-voltage imagination from a Welsh dramatist; plus, masters of improvisation

No doubting Thomas

IF YOU THINK Edward Thomas was a First World War poet who wrote quirky verse about the Wiltshire countryside, you will be mightily surprised by the dramatist of the same name currently represented in Covent Garden. He lives in South Wales, founded a theatre company called Y Cwmni in 1988, and has more in common with Sam Shepard and the Irvine Welsh of *Trainspotting* than with A.E. Housman or Wilfred Owen.

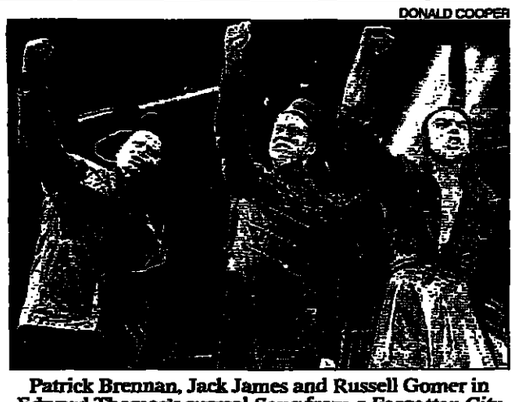
This Edward Thomas's *Song from a Forgotten City* is a surreal play about the trials of being Welsh, with a tormented, drugged-out writer as its main character.

Song from a Forgotten City
Donmar Warehouse

That summary is unlikely to lure Londoners in hordes to the latest arrival in the Donmar's "Four Corners" season. But I suspect that this will not vastly surprise Thomas nor send him into storms of resentment at Anglo insularity. He himself feels that Wales is the British Isles's forgotten corner and, though he laments its sidelining in vivid, even violent style, he does not act the victim nor offload the blame. Indeed, the play comes across as an exasperated attempt to shake, rattle and roll his compatriots out of their own enervated, enervating habits.

Though it took me time to succumb to his idiom, I came to feel he was fulfilling this task in the best way possible: by displaying a high-voltage imagination. He pulls us into a lurid, sinister world where, as the writer-protagonist says, it isn't clear "where my life ends and my blur begins". The stage furniture consists of a toilet bowl, crushed Coke cans, cages filled with urban detritus, towering pipes, neon lights. At times this represents the streets of Cardiff, a run-down hotel where the night porter wears a frock coat and a plastic skirt, the flat where the writer snorts cocaine, and his own disoriented head.

DONALD COOPER



Patrick Brennan, Jack James and Russell Gomer in Edward Thomas's surreal *Song from a Forgotten City*

Though characters merge into each other, and some events are hallucinated, the drift is clear. After all, you don't need a Dada phrasebook to interpret the scene in which a sneering publisher urges Carlyle (as the writer is called) to pen saleable pastoral, only to get his head shoved in the lavatory in reprisal. Neither the protagonist nor his author are into nostalgia. Quite the contrary. "I came to the city in search of a metropolis," says Carlyle, "and I found only Cardiff."

Feeling as he does that "without a city you can't have a country", he is preoccupied with the urban future, not any rural past. Though the dialogue free-associates this way and that, taking in everything from Barbie dolls to dentistry to car crashes, it is never more passionate than when Carlyle imagines taking a taxi-ride through streets that buzz with human excitement.

Sometimes the humour gets facetious — shirts plastered with "World of DIY" — but the invention and energy don't flag. Nor do Patrick Brennan, Jack James and Russell Gomer, a three-man cast who ably perform the work of ten. If Cardiff remains Cardiff, and Wales Wales, it won't be Y Cwmni's fault.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Uncaged and unconstrained

CONCERT

BCMG/Harding
Birmingham

TOMORROW, Radio 3 will broadcast a parade of 1950s hits — Stockhausen, Cage, Messiaen — played by the *Birmingham Contemporary* Music Group, and I just hope the recording will capture something of the exciting and entertaining occasion last Sunday at the Adrian Boult Hall; exciting by virtue of the performances, and entertaining for the tone of easy good humour of the large audience. It is a tribute to the work of the BCMG that cheerful crowds will come to programmes that would spell box-office death on the South Bank.

In the beginning was Stockhausen: an account of his percussion solo *Zyklus from Sasha Johnson*, who showed beautiful care for sound, a command of the sudden fortissimo, and a fine sense of the music speaking through the cracking, rumbling or blistering consonants of struck wood, skin and metal. The pianist Tim Horton then demonstrated how *Cage's 4'33" cannot really be* performed at all: we just sat there and remembered a historical event, looking at a lump of silence in a glass case. In 1952 it meant something, but it only had to happen once.

The other Cage performance was far more successful. Nigel Robson sang, whispered, laughed, snorted and intoned, muezzin-fashion, the *Aria* written for Cathy Berberian, and he did it, as Berberian did, to the accompaniment of the composer's miscellaneous tape collage *Fontana Mix*. But I wonder if even Berberian made it such a striking and touching piece of theatre. Robson reacted to the loudspeakers' interventions — by turns affronted, pained or amused — and made his vocalisations a rejoinder, a defiant assertion of the human voice and of its capacities to communicate, thrill and alarm. With Berberian, *Aria* brought out her innate ebullience; with Robson it became a darker experience, calling up in him most often the personae of victim and interrogator.

There was a gentle Berio *Sequenza I* from Colin Lilley, and a misfire at Stravinsky's *In memoriam Dylan Thomas*, but the programme ended back bang on target with a vivid performance of Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques*, with Horton again at the piano, now gainfully employed, and Daniel Harding conducting. The brilliance of the music was all there, but so too was the weight, especially the weight of silence, enough to make the piece not just wonderful but also, as it should be, a little frightening.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Winning formula

Modern Problems in Science
Bloomsbury

NEVER mind the scientific problems, what about those of the reviewer setting out to write about this constantly changing show?

The three performers are an improvisional group who have developed their own original and lunatic version. Science is their area, and a spacious enough one to contain any discipline that sounds as if it can be taught at college. The audience yells out an unlikely proposition which the "professors" then proceed to prove, in terms of the academic specialities chosen for them.

On their opening night — and they are only here until Saturday — a woman required them to demonstrate that she was not really there. Dick Costolo did so in terms of medicine. Rich Fulcher relied on his suddenly life-long experience of oceanography, and Phil Granchi drew out a proof derived from taxidermy.

After the interval we were asked to come up with a demonstrably true statement, whereupon they proved the opposite, ie that triangles do not have three sides. Tomorrow the questions will have altered, and I suppose it is just possible that one evening they will be given a proposition that defeats them. But somehow I doubt it, for they are experts in shifting goal posts.

Part of the show's appeal, to the largely student audience, may be that it mocks the procedures of the academic world. Ultimately, it is not so useful to establish that bungee-jumping failed to flourish in ancient Egypt because they only had the pyramids to jump off and kept killing themselves on the slopes. But lateral thinking is infectious, and who can foretell what stimulus the show might have upon university studies: "Impro shows led to the cure for cancer — discuss."

JEREMY KINGSTON

Elvis lives

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

IN ALL of pop, there is only one King. And *Elvis — the Musical* is the king of shows about him. Devised by the legendary Jack Good, whose *Oh Boy* was the first great British television show devoted to rock'n'roll, and Ray Cooney, the show at the Prince of Wales Theatre features three different actors playing Elvis at the various stages of his life. Alexander Bar makes his West End debut as the young Elvis, and his life before stardom. Tim Whitnall plays the Elvis of the late Fifties and Sixties, when he was unrivalled as the pop idol of a generation. Finally, P.J. Proby, something of a rock icon in his own right, portrays Elvis in his later, Las Vegas, years.

Until April 11, Theatre Club members can save £10 on best tickets to the show (normally £25 until April 1, £27.50 from April 3), except for Fri and Sat evening performances. Tel 0171-839 5972 to book, quoting your membership number

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Kings Head Theatre
April 2-14
● THE life of Hollywood legend Doris Day is celebrated in *Definitely Doris*, along with 40 of her songs, such as *Que Sera Sera* and *Move Over Darling*. Tickets £6 (normally £10) for Tues to Fri evening performances and Sat and Sun matinees. Tel 0171-226 1916

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Mar 25-26
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £11.50) for the thriller *The Woman in Black*, adapted by Stephen Mallatrat from the novel by Susan Hill. Tel 01738 621031

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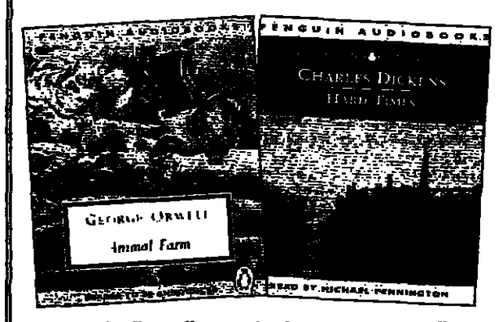
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THE TIMES AUDIO BOOKS
TOKEN 5

Robert Skidelsky on the power of victimhood

Thoughtfully challenged

Consider the case of extremely short persons (ESPs), previously known as dwarfs. Research reveals that they are seriously under-represented in higher-paid jobs. A spokesperson attributes this to "heightism", or prejudice against ESPs. To counter heightism, school curricula should be rewritten to emphasise the contributions of ESPs to human progress, discrimination on grounds of height made illegal, and positive discrimination policies in favour of ESPs instituted.

This fantasy — as it still just is — captures the flavour of the arguments put forward for the "liberation" of women, blacks, and gays and lesbians in this lively, if uneven, collection of essays. These arguments go well beyond the historic demand for equal rights, now conceded in all civilised societies. The case for the "liberation" of particular groups rests on the proposition that our societies are so impregnated with sexist, racist, or homophobic prejudices that members of the groups against whom these prejudices are directed are entitled to special support in the exercise of their legal rights (for example, through laws forbidding discrimination in housing and employment, or enjoining the teaching of homosexuality in schools), and/or to additional rights which apply only to members of the oppressed group — for example, job quotas for women and for blacks.



Animal rights protests, March 1995

THE LIBERATION DEBATE
Rights At Issue
Edited by Michael Leahy and Dan Cohn-Sherbok
Routledge, £40

Arguments along these lines are advanced by the feminist Jean Hampton, the black liberationist Bernard Boxill, and Martha Nussbaum on behalf of homosexuals: Nussbaum, for example, wants to use the law to break down the "atmosphere of taboo and disgust that fosters discrimination and violence against gays and lesbians".

In resisting such claims classical liberals have a hard task. Anthony Flew and Michael Levin reply that the social outcomes disliked by the liberationists ("gendered roles" for women, inferior jobs for blacks) are not, in fact, the result of patriarchy or racism but of free choice by women (Anthony Flew) or the "phenotypical characteristics" of blacks (Michael Levin). Neither view is wholly plausible. Sexism and racism do exist, and are "socially structured".

Flew and Levin might have done better to emphasise the costs to freedom of any serious legislative attempt to overturn the inherited attitudes of society, rather than argue that these attitudes are wholly rational. Yet liberals find it hard to defend institutions and practices which are not grounded in reason.

Conservatives do not suffer from this disability, and Roger Scruton effectively deploys the conservative case against Martha Nussbaum in the best exchange in the book. Nussbaum argues a right to same-sex marriages. This is hard for a liberal to resist: it is universal, it enlarges the liberty of some while imposing no restrictions on the liberty of others. Scruton puts a number of functional arguments for legal protection of the traditional family, which extend to keeping gay men out of the armed forces.

The traditional family unit, he says, is an irreplaceable form of social capital, embodying the "spirit of sacrifice" to future generations; teaching traditional morality is a necessary investment in good habits. Functional arguments are all that are left to conservatives when traditional authority is gone. But I doubt whether they are sufficient to withstand the pressure of the rights' activists, even less to direct behaviour in particular cases, once their "sacred" supports have been overwhelmed by profane reasonings.

Like conservatism, "liberation theology", developed in Latin America, is not centrally concerned with rights but with duties. According to Cohn-Sherbok, the Old Testament demand for justice imposes an imperative duty on Jews and Christians to fight for the liberation of the poor from poverty. Central to this view is that the Kingdom of God is built through earthly activity, which culminates with the coming of the Messiah.

John Wilson has little difficulty in demolishing these propositions. If there are good reasons for liberating the poor from injustice, then they will apply to anyone and not just to Jews and Christians. So scriptural authority cannot be a rational ground for being a liberationist. Moreover, the Bible does not tell us anything about the best methods for achieving liberationist aims, which is the province of the specialised sciences.

The mixture of religious eschatology and messianic socialism, of which "liberation theology" is but the latest incarnation, has been an incredibly powerful motive force in history. Rather than dismiss it as an intellectual mistake, Wilson would have done better to point out its murderous consequences, for victims and prophets alike.

Liberals have an easier time in countering the argument for childrens' and animal rights, put forward by John Harris and Andrew Linzey respectively. An effective response here is to say that animals and children are not entitled to equal rights because they are not equal to adults or humans in the relevant respects. Michael Leahy, for example, has little difficulty in showing that animals are not "persons". With these populations, the case for special protection can be made without contradiction.

The "liberation debate" shows how powerful the claim to victimhood still is, how inventive the language used to promote it, how rusty the intellectual weapons available to resist it. The one topic missing from this book is cost. Liberation does not come cheap. So far a general disinclination to pay the costs — in money or duties — as well as some lingering taboos (against homosexual behaviour) have frustrated the liberationists. But those who worry about threats to liberty and privacy should sharpen up their weapons. They may need them.

Lord Skidelsky is Professor of Political Economy at Warwick University.

Love behind the palace walls

HULTON DEUTSCH



The Princess's love for her husband enabled her to bear the isolation of her life: their arrival in London for the Queen's Coronation in 1953

Joanna Pitman on a revealing glimpse behind an imperial mask

This is a remarkable and intriguing memoir, beautifully translated. The only autobiography ever published by a member of Japan's imperial family, *The Silver Drum* is a surprisingly frank personal account by Princess Chichibu of her life, after she was plucked unexpectedly from the ranks of Japan's ordinary pigtailed schoolgirls and chosen to become the wife of Prince Chichibu, younger brother of Emperor Hirohito and therefore next in line to the Chrysanthemum throne.

She was just 18 at the time, the natural and unrestrained daughter of Japan's ambassador to America, looking forward to a continued exuberant life revolving around her family, friends, sports, travel — and her liberty.

Bursting in on her dreams in 1927 came an envoy dispatched to Washington by the Empress Dowager — widow of the late Emperor Taisho — with instructions to obtain marriage consent from parents and from daughter, who had been spotted some years earlier by the Empress Dowager on one of her bi-annual visits to Tokyo's Peers School to look for future brides for her four sons.

The poor girl could not for the life of her understand why she had to be sacrificed to the unknown "other world" of the Imperial Family, to be married to a man she had barely met once or twice in passing. She recalls the fear, panic and deep unhappiness at the prospect of exile from her family and friends.

Her parents resisted. She resisted. But the pressure from Her Majesty only increased and finally after four agonising days and sleepless nights, unable to eat, to go to school or to do anything but cry, duty and her sense of family honour prevailed and she at last agreed to marry the prince. "I had thought, agonised and cried myself dry. Now that my mind was made up I would reflect and cogitate no more. Since I had no idea what my future life would be like, I resolved not to be apprehensive or to fret. I decided to live in the present, to make the most of every day. That would prepare me best for the future."

THE SILVER DRUM
By Princess Chichibu
Global Books, £14.95

From that day on imperial protocol required her parents to use a formal honorific language towards her and they instructed her younger brother and sister to think of her no longer as "one of us". Her life-long nanny refused to look at her, such was the awe in which the family of the Emperor, then still considered to be a living god, was held.

This is an extraordinary tale of the dutiful self sacrificial discipline of a young and lonely woman, floundering about in the unexplained rigours of imperial etiquette and suffering a painful initiation into the rigid formalities of court life.

Correct posture, dress and decorum was all. She was told not to let her feet show when walking, she was scolded for putting her shoes away and the mere touching of an ornamental bird in the garden brought cries of "Oh no Madam, let me do that".

Her collection of jazz records was judged unsuitable and removed on moving into the palace and she was warned not to write casual letters. When she met her mother again months after her marriage, she was barely able to say a thing, so constrained was she by her new circumstances.

But running through her story, glinting like a gold thread, was the one saving grace of her life — her immediate fondness and later deep love for her husband, who comes across as an enlightened man, with an eagerness, rare for his time, to know and understand the Japanese people. Historians will learn much of his sympathetic and inventive nature but little of his role in the war.

But much else of the imperial institution is revealed. Given that the imperial household is still so shrouded in secrecy and mystery, this volume offers a rare, valuable and to all appearances truthful insight, and its sanction from on high indicates an interesting change of tack for an institution hitherto terrified of the decaying breath of publicity.

The translation by Dorothy Britton is a tour de force. Done with sympathy and grace, this was an exacting task given the formality of imperial Japanese language. Britton gives us many of the sublayers, the hints and allusions which are the very nature of the language, but which remain so elusive to most translators.

As I read the memoirs, I could not help thinking of Crown Princess Masako, a cosmopolitan young woman with a happy future of family, career and friends to look forward to, who more recently was chosen and similarly attempted to refuse (three times over a period of some years in her case) marriage to the heir to the throne.

She too bowed to duty in the end and married in 1993, giving up her career as a diplomat and disappearing behind the walls of the imperial palace in Tokyo. Little has been seen of her since, but one can only hope that she too has found happiness and support in her husband.

Hearing spirit voices

THE OLD world of County Cork, the new world of Charles Town, Georgia and the lost Paradise of the West Indies in the early 18th century provide three backdrops for Alison MacLeod's dramatic first novel. A cast of farmers and aristocrats, pirates, sailors and slaves gives it all the vigour of an adventure story. But by positioning a cross-dressing, bi-sexual young woman centre stage, she poses some modern questions about the perception of women in a male world.

This author has already written for the theatre, and her first act here, with the birth and childhood of the changeling and future pirate, Anne Bonny, is resonant with signs of the drama to come. A harsh landscape looks more like MacLeod's native Canada than the southwest coast of Ireland, and the keening voice of Annie, the peasant who raises the child, sound unlikely. But when Anne's father decides to raise his illegitimate child as a boy and claim an heir for his estates, things begin to get interesting.

Aisling Foster

THE CHANGELING
By Alison MacLeod
Macmillan, £15.99

Earlier signs of confused sexuality are given a Freudian spin as years spent in leather breeches develop the girl's liking for how the other half lives. By the time her father quits Ireland for the New World and tries to squeeze his teenage rebel back into petticoats, it is much too late.

MacLeod appears more at home conjuring up the unlaced freedoms of the southern states of America. Yet when the drama shifts to the West Indies, her narrative is overwhelmed by tidal waves of dialogue. The inhabitants of shanty towns and a chorus of wise black women are relentlessly loquacious about shifts in taste and politics.

Yet no one ever quite steps out of character. Even Anne Bonny, who might have illuminated the pleasures of her extraordinary lifestyle, remains an icon to the end.

But in imagining her, the author has made an impressive entry into fiction. A series of set pieces haunt the imagination long after the last page: the scene of the new Governor from England sitting for his portrait on a beach, stiff with family, gilt throne and spaniel pup, delineates the inexorable expansion of empire; and the sight of women holding up their children to touch the dead feet of pirates swinging from gibbets nicely illustrates the new century's crossover from superstition to a rational age. In moments like these the novelist's own voice sounds more convincing than all the speeches of her ingeniously scripted actors.

Honour to a great poet

The numerous recent English-language attempts on Dante's *Inferno* (including a Peter Greenaway palimpsest-&-montage telefilm) speak of a discontent with the existing versions but also of an increasing sense that this poem, of all the classics, most directly addresses and challenges our own time.

Within hell's vast but narrowing circles, Dante is forced to confront images of catastrophic human failure and suffering. His response may vary from spite to pity but he is never so in tune with the omnipotent architect and jailer as utterly to repress his sorrow at the debasement of the human form.

When he sees, for example, the necrologers, their heads on back-to-front, he asks: "How could I have kept/ Tears of my own from falling for the sake/ Of our human image so grotesquely reshaped/ Contorted so the eyes' tears fell to wet/ The buttocks at the cleft." Despite the rebuke this earns from his guide Virgil, if Dante had been incapable of this response we would dismiss him as a torturer's henchman.

Though his former teacher Brunetto Latini is condemned to run forever on the burning marl among the sodomites, Dante treats him as a father figure, and as an intellectual *victor ludorum*. Dante himself is implicated in the sins published — though in some more than others, as we see in the delectation with which he prompts Francesca's flawed but beautiful account of her adultery with Paolo.



Michael Mazur's monotypes offer a new vision of Dante

Jamie McKendrick

THE INFERNO OF DANTE
A New Verse Translation
By Robert Pinsky
J. M. Dent, £20

John Freccero, the eminent Dante scholar who introduces this new translation, would frown on this reading for its failure to separate Dante the pilgrim from the poet Dante who identifies himself with the "*potenza di Dio*", and yet it is the unreconciled tension between these two perspectives which holds our imagination.

Dante does not merely create the crowded horror-chambers of so many medieval pictures but brings back from there the individual stories in the distinctive cadences of the damned. We distinguish them by their voices as well as their postures: the haughty Tuscan of Farinata sitting bolt-upright in his tomb; the thin courtly immobilised subjunctives of Pier de la Vigna whistled through the broken branch that serves him for a larynx in the Suicide's Wood. The many languages of hell, from Nimrod's bestial gobbledegook to Ulysses's humanist gusting tones give this inverted Babel its global range.

Although the damned can see the future, unlike the souls of the other two books they can never inhabit it, which makes their memories of earth their only tormenting possession: whilst Dante's own homesickness as a Florentine exile makes him perceive these eternal abodes through a political and geological map of Italy.

Mandelstam compared the *Commedia* to a single crystal of "13,000 facets", each line reflecting the whole structure. It would be folly to expect the poem to recrystallise itself intact into another language when the rhetorical resources of even a single canto have exhausted many of the finest later poets, but Robert Pinsky's translation is really to be welcomed. He offers a half-rhyme *terza rima*, where Dorothy Sayers fully rhymes, but his phrasing is far better as is his rhythmic sense.

There are, however, two prosodic weaknesses. The first is a varying line length which lacks the definition of Dante's hendecasyllables — where he settles for the pentameter the effect is instantly more electric. The other problem is a tendency to brusquely enjamb his lines so that he makes the straight crooked and the resonant off-key. These annoyances don't prevent Pinsky's from being the best and the most readable contemporary English-language version of the *Inferno*.

After Doré's lugubrious engravings which have clung to the poem's hem for so long, Michael Mazur's monotypes are a relief. With their corroded viscous darks, they make the visible a little hard to see. Two are especially haunting: a crow's eye view of the hoarders and spenders at the moment of impact, an authentic *contrapasso* and the towers of Dis like signalling Norman watchtowers.

Jamie McKendrick's The Kiosk on the Brink *is published by OUP*

Sorted for Es

Giles Coren

THREE
By Georges Perec
Harvill, £7.99 ppb original

IT IS not surprising that Georges Perec compiled crosswords for a living. For the effect of reading anything of his is to be driven temporarily mad by one's readerly inadequacies. To read the recent translation of *La Disparition*, a lipogrammatic novel eschewing the letter "e", was to emerge from it cursing the appearance of that letter in any other medium — newspapers, magazines, medical prescriptions — and assume its user to be illiterate and clumsy.

In this triptych, translated by Ian Monk, there is a story which uses up all the "e"s Perec had left over from *La Disparition*, and ignores the other four vowels. Just as you leave a crossword thinking everything you hear is a clue, or leave a wordsearch puzzle looking for mythical birds' names encrypted diagonally in whichever block of prose you encounter immediately afterwards, so you leave *The Exeter Text: Jewels, Secrets, Sex* temporarily unable to think straight.

But Perec was permanently unable to think straight, and could not compose unless he set himself inhumanly difficult limitations. That is why he was a member of OULIPO, a group of barmy writers in the 1960s who believed that literature emerged most felicitously from the imposition of quasi-mathematical constraints. They were wrong, of course, but it *was* the Sixties.

The e-ful story tells the tale of a jewel theft, and an orgy in the grounds of a cathedral, but while the narrative elements could probably be enjoyed with a little work, it is as an onslaught on orthographic correctness that it manages to entertain. For Perec does not merely avoid words which contain other vowels, he respells them according to his strictures: "Next, wheyele the Emeenence's freyl feelers kerressed seven deeveyne bedes, he sed the vespers."



Perec: literary rebellion

If nothing else, this terrifying and dislocating experience makes you pant with relief to arrive on the relatively solid ground of the other two tales.

Which Moped With Chrome-Plated Handlebars At The Back Of The Yard? does not get any less cumbersome once you are through the title, but it is at least spelt traditionally, and the story — in which a group of friends plot to save a young man from conscription in the Algerian war by breaking his leg — is full of the dark humour of the Left Bank in the years leading up to "*Les Evènements*".

The exercise, in this case, is to break as many stylistic conventions as possible, and to parody a succession of rhetorical ornaments. This having been written before his enrollment with OULIPO, Perec is human enough to provide at least half an index to these at the end of his text. Oh, and the hero of the piece is never referred to twice by the same name — a spot of fun that is manageable in a 40 page novella, but would have wreaked havoc if Tolstoy had tried it in *War and Peace*.

A Gallery Portrait is technically the easiest to cope with. An art collector commissions a portrait of himself in a room with his collection. On the wall, in the portrait, is a portrait of the art collector in a room with his collection. On the wall, in the portrait in the portrait . . .

The piece is a collage of extracts from imaginary art history books, biographies, and exhibition notes, and Perec displays the huge descriptive skills that lurk behind his posturing, as each little piece becomes genuinely gripping before disappearing into something new.

As a picture of an artist consumed by the fever of method it is, of course, a self portrait, and a tragic one at that. But it is all in the name of fun, and while realism has now firmly reestablished its grip on the literary status quo, this is a fascinating glimpse of a revolutionary age struggling to find expression.

No one, however, will be getting rich on the film rights.

Peter Ackroyd on the enigma of England's Lord Protector: a Puritan who was enthroned in ermine

Light that shone on a heart of darkness

To John Milton he was "our Chief of Men" but to others he was the Anti-Christ, the beast of the Reformation eventually come to light; he was the "Matchless Prince", or "Devil of later times". He has become, then, a creature of legend whose fame rests upon the fact that, as Mr Gaunt says in this excellent brief study, he is England's only "non-royal head of state".

Yet, as far as Cromwell was concerned, he was simply tossed into the air by God the gamester. He was selected by Providence and, as he once observed, "no one rises so high as he who knows not whither he is going". Posterity hardly knows where he came from, either, since the evidence of his early life is scattered and inconclusive. He spent his first 40 years as an unknown farmer and gentleman in East Anglia: his seems to be a familiar story of a "great figure" emerging from a family "in decline", as Mr Gaunt tells us, and therefore of "ambiguous" social rank.

There are more suggestive notes, however: he was brought up in a household of seven sisters, and was prone to deep melancholy, no doubt exacerbated by the contamination of the East Anglian Fens. He displayed no interest in politics at all, but at some point he showed distinct evidence of a religious conversion. "Blessed be His name," he wrote at the age of 39, "for shining upon so dark a heart as mine!" He may not have been separate, or even precise, but he was certainly moving to the "elect" end of the religious fold.

It was in his role as one of the godly that he eventually and belatedly came to prominence. The story of his opposition to Charles I in the Long Parliament, and his post as a captain of a cavalry in the Parliamentary Army, is well enough known not to need a further rehearsal here. Yet it is apposite to note that Cromwell discovered his true genius as an army commander; his decisiveness and power of organisation were never to be so well exercised in the political sphere, and it might be said that as Lord Protector he was always a general *manqué*. As far as he was concerned, however, he was always in the hands of God. His letters are filled with enough vows and imprecations to do justice to a sermon by Savonarola.

Of course there has been more violence and cruelty done in the name of God than in that of any earthly ruler, and we might be inclined to look upon Cromwell's piety with certain misgivings. He preferred to quote from the Old Testament rather than the New, which is generally the sign of an unquiet conscience, and his blood lust during the Irish campaign is as monstrous as anything in English history. When the Puritan settlers of New England exterminated the Indians with the name of Christ upon their lips, they were merely rehearsing Cromwell's belief that his massacre of the Roman Catholic Irish, or "wild Irish", was evidence of God's "righteous justice".

The same kind of religious sensibility is at work in both instances, at once paranoid and vindictive, exclusive and minatory. Cromwell often talked of blood being spilt, or harvested; he dismissed the Rump Parliament in part because its members had "never bled" for their nation, and so we are presented with the idea of national life as a continual sacrifice in the tradition of Moloch or Magog.

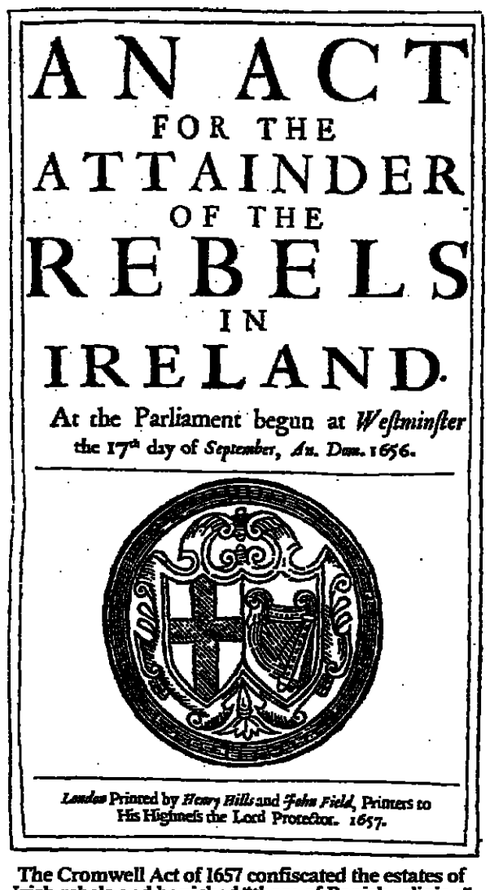
OLIVER CROMWELL
By Peter Gaunt
Blackwell, £18.99

More particular forces were also at work in this strange polity. Cromwell had a hatred of Roman Catholics, and it is well known that there was a large band of "Levellers" in his army. During the time of the Civil Wars and of his Protectorate, therefore, there is a more general cultural and social struggle in evidence. It was a Puritan who tried effectively to renounce the ancient customs of his country, and a hundred years after the Reformation Oliver Cromwell might be seen as finishing the work of Thomas Cromwell. As Mr Gaunt notes, he became "a party to violent, unconstitutional action and the destruction of the existing political and governmental system". This is what happens when you espouse a religion based upon faith and grace rather than tradition and authority.

Yet it must also be said that he was less rigid and less discriminatory than many of his colleagues, and he generally deemed it safer to take a middle course through the waves of political faction. As a result he was accused then, and now, of mendacity allied with overwhelming ambition. His constant invocations of "the Lord" in the middle of various conspiratorial manoeuvres certainly lay him open to the charge of mischievous hypocrisy. There is a very interesting description from a contemporary pamphlet: "You shall scarce speak to Cromwell about anything, but he will lay his hand on his breast, elevate his eyes, and call God to record; he will weep, howl, and repent, even while he doth smite you under the first rib". Certainly his violent dismissal of Parliament, and his acceptance of monarchical powers, do not suggest the behaviour of one altogether humble in the service of the Lord. As Protector, he lived in the palaces of Whitehall and Hampton Court: his head, enwreathed in laurel, appeared on coins and medals. On his first enthronement he wore a plain black suit, and yet for his second he wore ermine. He was addressed as "Your Highness", and effectively turned himself into "King Oliver".

This is a carefully written and well argued account; since its author is also chairman of the Cromwell Association, it is also extraordinarily impartial. Yet Cromwell himself does not emerge in any vivid or particular light. He was prone to sudden euphoria and depression — "alwayes making hast", as he said of himself — but there are very few other clues about what was, even to his contemporaries, a most puzzling character.

An interesting thesis on the subject of Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* suggests that the novel is in fact a fantastic reworking of the events of the mid-17th century, with the characters of Oliver Twist and Monks — half-brothers in rivalry over an inheritance — somehow echoing the historical roles of Oliver Cromwell and General Monk. It is a possibility, of course, but in fact Cromwell would be much better placed in the pages of *Martin Chuzzlewit*. He is part Pecksniff and part Tom Pinch, hypocritical and pious at the same time. Was he a great leader, or was he a great charlatan? Could the truth be that he was, perhaps, both?



The Cromwell Act of 1657 confiscated the estates of Irish rebels and banished "those of Popish religion"

Pass the Alka-Seltzer

Michèle Roberts

THE DEBT TO PLEASURE
By John Lanchester
Picador, £15.99

Adopting the Proustian method of allowing sensual experience to dictate narrative shape and suddenly re-experienced tastes to evoke long-forgotten childhood memories, John Lanchester's novel idles along on a sentimental and gastronomic journey through France, mixing story-telling, recipes, reminiscence and hints of mysterious crimes to tickle the reader's palate and nudge even the most unwilling audience into admiration of its cleverness.

Irony, so beloved of a certain sort of English writer, is apparently all: style, content, solution. The novel opens as the memoir, jotted as he goes, of Tarquin Winot, gourmet, word-spinner and snob. At first there's no obvious reason why Winot (Why-not?) should write as he does, piling Baroque clause upon wordy metaphor upon over-lengthy parenthesis to produce toppling Eiffel Towers of prose. This parody of Brillat-Savarin, seasoned with a dash of Henry James and peppered, as noted above, with *hommage* to Proust, seems mere self-indulgent pastiche, the borrowing of others' language as costumes substituting for the proper development of character.

Soon, we come to realise that Winot, like a 19th-century maid turned out of the house for immorality, cannot be given a character. He is what he seems: all surface. He's in disguise. The plot of the novel turns out to be indeed a *plot*, with murder and loot at its heart. The novel transforms itself in an astonishing way, much as a bowl of eggy cream turns into a soufflé when you're not looking. The picaresque cookbook becomes a thriller, and like the dinner guests, applauding a perfect soufflé's lightness we have to admit that Lanchester has had us delightfully fooled.

The novel, following Winot's leisurely progress south, permits itself many diversions, through the seasons, and through the regions of France, in order to throw dust in the reader's eyes about the purpose of the trip while simultaneously allowing delicious anecdotes of gourmandise to be recounted. Arrival by boat in St Malo, for example, provokes Winot to remember the sort of winter menus cooked by his Irish nanny Mary-Teresa. We're given not only her classic version of Irish stew but also the story of her dismissal from the narrator's Paris home for theft. This episode is charmingly told. Winot's personality slips; he and his style become simpler and more *sympathique*.

He recovers himself. His sentences are once more hectically garnished to the point of hysteria, and he goes back to being unpleasant: half a bottle of wine is "spinsterish", civilisation depends upon ignoring the starving, and so on. The clue to his emotional state is always to be found in his language. Giving himself away is always followed by even more extravagant dandyish posing.

He has a poet's ear for naming and for lists. He is capable of appreciating the elaborate display of a *charcuterie*: "*jambon fumé, jambon de Bayonne, prosciutto crudo di Parma, jambon d'Ardennes...*" — and so on.

In between these disquisitions, the plot thickens much like Irish stew, imperceptibly and gradually. Winot reveals, or pretends to, the tale of his famous artist brother, their sibling rivalry, his own long-held grudges. Tracking an apparently innocent honeymoon couple, he ensnares and manipulates them so that they become actors in his design for villainy. The chit-chat is amusingly done: "you may find this fig confiture especially apt with that brioche ... Italian friends do say that figs are the ideal accompaniment to Parma ham. These, of course, are from one's own tree. Laura, spot more coffee? *Dommage.*"

It's possible to find the old codgerese, the young fogey clichés, wearisome. Winot does go on a great deal. Even the most delicious French lunch can have its *longueurs*. Sometimes I wanted a literary equivalent of the *trou normand*, a little snifter to aid digestion. Just a *soupçon* less self-congratulation on the author's part would also have been welcome.



ANN ROGERS

PAUL JOHNSON plays a number of roles in our literary life, all with distinction. The most significant is that of a historian of religion and ideas: his *Modern Times* has made him a cult figure in Eastern Europe and the United States. He is also a fearless polemical journalist who takes on his adversaries in trenchant prose.

Now he embarks on a "personal pilgrimage", *The Quest for God*. This is perhaps the most audacious of his endeavours: faith is a personal matter that not only makes one vulnerable to ridicule, but also reveals the difficulty of putting one's own most profound emotions into words. Nor is faith static, as Johnson realises: "I have begun this book to resolve many doubts in my own mind, to clarify my thoughts and to try and define what God means to me and my life."

The resolving of doubts is probably the least successful of these three objectives because there is little evidence that he has had any. Coming from a pious Roman Catholic family, and educated by the Jesuits, he never seems to have had misgivings about the essential tenets of the Catholic faith. Being in the same position myself, I do not subscribe to the notion that one must doubt before one can believe; but I had hoped to learn more about his convictions in his socialist days, and the links between his religious and political beliefs.

His "quest" is in reality a literary convention: what Johnson has written is an excellent résumé of a traditional Catholic's faith. Prayers of his own composition given in an appendix use traditional phraseology, a welcome contrast to the banality of most modern incantations.

Among Johnson's talents is that of a teacher, and here he is clearly happier to teach than to inquire. The book benefits enormously from his erudition: it contains fascinating nuggets of information about the history of religion; but the more historical, the less personal the quest. He makes personal references from time to time to his wife Marigold, his invariably elevated companions (Jean Sibelius, A. J. Ayer, Margaret Thatcher, a duke, a Scottish laird, a "beautiful and fashionable lady"), and he describes his own habits of prayer: he goes to church every morning and kisses "Our Lord's poor feet, nailed to the cross and bleeding, before I begin my work each day". However, none of this makes *The Quest for God* a confessional work like St Augustine's *Confessions*. It is rather a work of personalised apologetics in the tradition of G. K. Chesterton, Karl Adam or F. J. Sheed.

Johnson is not without views that might raise the odd eyebrow in Rome. He prays to Jane Austen to help him to perfect his prose, and believes that women should be able to be priests, bishops and even Pope. One wonders how he has reacted to the present Pope's ruling to the contrary, pronounced infallible by Cardinal Ratzinger.

The Quest for God is cogent, learned and written in a fine prose style. My only disappointment was the feeling that while this is undoubtedly the truth it is not the whole truth. If not doubts, has there been no suffering? No dark nights of the soul? Johnson has given us an excellent Profession of Faith: his *De Profundis* has yet to come.

Faith in Saint Jane

Piers Paul Read

THE QUEST FOR GOD
A Personal Pilgrimage
By Paul Johnson
Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.99

Charming the elements

Tibor Fischer

PARTICLE THEORY
By Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy
Hutchinson, £14.99

Odd book. *Particle Theory* is rich in ideas and quick in changes of style. Scientific theory, from Democritus to Fred Hoyle, is drawn on as the novel jumps from the life of Michael Wordingham, mollycoddlee extraordinaire (whose disgusting habits will, I suspect, make the most slovenly and eccentric reader feel like a model citizen) to that of Ivan Kuchevsky, a Russian farm boy.

You are what you've written and as you would expect from someone who has written on the British nanny, public schools and marriage, these materials are found bobbing around in the narrative, but Gathorne-Hardy gives you a lot for your money: Stalin's Soviet Union, safari Africa, pissed painters, supernatural events, the collective unconsciousness, a guide to particle physics, parallel worlds and arm-wrestling.

Michael Wordingham's life is easily summed up: brought up by his grandmother in Suffolk, educated first at home, then at Cambridge, after which he moves to London to devote himself to searching for Elfreda, his beloved Latvian nanny, and to filling the large house he lives in with his various collections.

Ivan's life, on the other hand, is far more dramatic and globe-trotting. He, like Michael, is an orphan, but as physically rugged as Michael is weedy. He volunteers for the Red Army, but then deserts and escapes from the Soviet Union. He, like Michael, goes to Cambridge, but it is only at the end of the book, in present-day Israel, that they are fated to meet with memorable impact; Ivan has years of travelling to do before that rendezvous.

Gathorne-Hardy writes with great simplicity, and with much wit and colour: "there are French letters all along the shore like the ghosts of cocks". The drawback to writing this well is that pedestrian passages stick out. One or two of the middle sections, such as Ivan's arm-wrestling exploits in Africa, or Michael's gradual repletion of his house, while entertaining in themselves, almost seem to be there only to delay the catastrophe.

Nevertheless *Particle Theory* is a work that will keep its readers on their toes as Gathorne-Hardy switches style from run-of-the-mill realism, to comedy, to a mutant expressionism and back again. Ivan comes up through the floorboards of a beautiful girl's bedroom in a provincial town called Ruibinsk and announces to her: "'I found I had this power. I could create people ... I could make all sorts of things happen — cows go mad, the rivers flood. And one day I created Ruibinsk.'

"'But that's nonsense,' said Sofka. 'Ruibinsk's been here for centuries'."

It takes you a while to decide who's right. *Particle Theory* is funny, sometimes extremely moving and clever; you'll probably have to read it twice.



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When French skies closed

ONE of the most amusing, yet worrying, aviation stories is told by a former air traffic controller, David Gunson.

For a time his job was to watch over the radar blips representing passenger aircraft flying across Britain — "wriggling maggots" as he describes them — and see them safely through his patch before handing them on.

On one early-morning shift he was responsible for seeing his "maggots" out of British airspace and handing them over to French traffic control. Only when Mr Gunson tried to call his French colleague to



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

tell him how many "maggots" were on their way, was he told that the French controllers were on strike.

For days, Mr Gunson had to divert aircraft left at Dover through Belgium, Germany and anywhere else that would have them.

One day he called up to see when the strike would be over. It already was, he was told. But the French had not bothered to tell anyone.

This lack of communication between Europe's air traffic control services, together with an often farcical lack of equipment and investment, led to serious problems in the 1980s when tents had to be erected at Gatwick to accommodate the millions of holidaymakers routinely delayed for hours.

Things have improved since then but now Europe's Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, wants to go further.

"Too many passengers spend longer waiting for a plane than they do flying in it ... It is unfair to expect airline passengers to put up with delays which, if applied to buses or trains, would be deemed intolerable," he says.

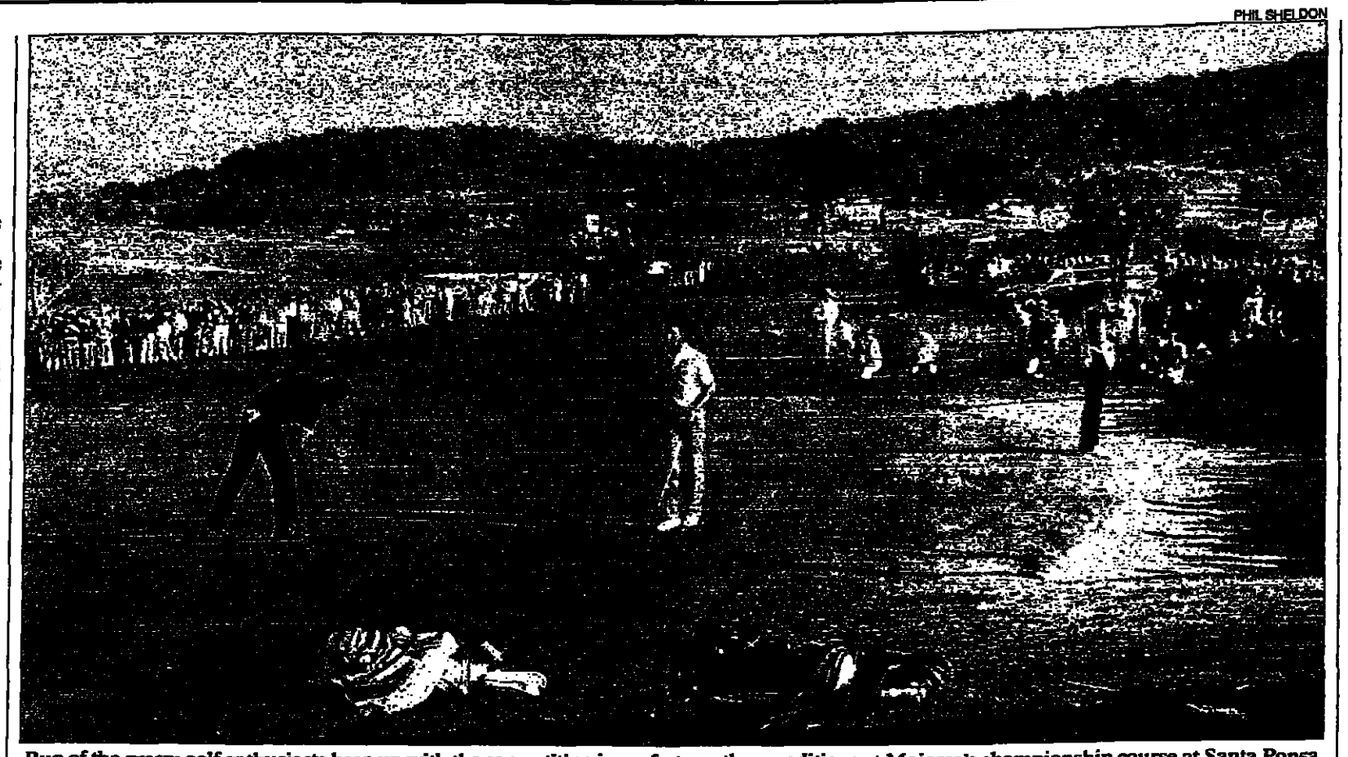
Mr Kinnock claims that last year 18.4 per cent of European flights were delayed by more than 15 minutes. And the figures are still deteriorating, according to the Association of European Airlines.

Now in a White Paper called *Freeing Europe's Airspace* Mr Kinnock is urging ministers to turn Eurocontrol — the existing, but toothless European co-ordinating body — into a single, powerful regulatory authority. But I suspect he will be thwarted.

An indication of the opposition he faces came from the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, Christopher Chataway. "I can find no convincing argument to promote the case for a European international institution as the single system authority responsible for planning, financing, managing, operating and maintaining Europe's air traffic control system," he says.

We travellers care not a jot about the the arguments, just as long as someone finds a way of speeding the flow of civil aircraft across Europe, and prevents Mr Gunson's horror story from being repeated.

PHIL SHELDON



Run of the green: golf enthusiasts keep up with the competition in perfect weather conditions at Majorca's championship course at Santa Ponsa

Majorca lures sportsmen

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITAIN's most popular island-holiday destination — Majorca — is turning to sport in an attempt to boost its foreign revenue after a slump in package tourists.

At least two new golf courses are planned after research showed that golfers spend an average of £120 a day, compared with £15 a day spent by non-sportsmen.

A former football ground — leased from the local council for one peseta a year — has been turned into a cricket club which is now taking on visiting teams from all over Britain. Other stadia offering American football and bowls are being developed.

Majorca Sports Tours Management (01252-783630), the British representatives of many sports federations and clubs, offers breaks involving more than 30 sports and pastimes from £200 per person.

The Majorcan tourist authorities have been concerned by a sharp drop in the number of visitors from Britain taking a traditional two-week summer holiday. By the end of January, bookings for next summer were about 25 per cent down on the same time last year. Concerns about the sluggish German economy, and an acceptance that cheap packages can reduce income and create a down-market image, have forced the island to aim to attract fewer, but wealthier tourists.

Peter Shanks, commercial director of the travel agency chain Going Places, says: "Holiday companies have traditionally viewed sports and leisure facilities as an added extra. But now many are integrating them into the total holiday experience. Such holidays are likely to become the standard for the travel industry in the late 1990s."

The plan — which is costing the local council of Calvia alone more than £75 million in an eight-year investment programme — appears to be working.

Most of the daily British Midland scheduled flights, with economy seats costing from £155 return, and business-class fares from £330, are filled by independent travellers. The Majorcan Cricket Association has a long list of potential touring sides wanting a fixture, the best golf courses have waiting lists and horse-riding, tennis, bowls and other sports are increasingly in demand.

Malaria fear for travellers

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THERE are fears that British travellers are visiting malarial regions without protection after a fall in sales of a controversial anti-malaria drug.

Questions about the safety of Lariam, the most powerful such drug available, have been raised by the BBC television programme, *Watchdog*. More than 60 people also contacted *The Times* to report alarming side-effects.

Nic Holliday, the managing director of Roche, the manufacturers, said: "The publicity has led to confusion. Lariam is not being used as widely and the result is that travellers are not going to be protected adequately."

Sales of Lariam last year topped £3 million, but Mr Holliday denied that Roche's worry was mainly financial. "Our principle concern is to ensure that the right advice is given so that the number of people dying from malaria in Britain does not increase."

Last year 11 British travellers died from malaria. Chloroquine, the other commonly used drug, is not effective in large parts of Africa, the Far East and the Caribbean.

Lariam can have serious side-effects, which Roche says afflict one in 10,000 travellers. Symptoms include panic attacks, fits and manic depression. One in five will suffer minor side-effects such as nausea, rashes or headaches. More than 100 travellers are now seeking compensation from Roche.

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Disney to launch its own cruise liners

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

DISNEY yesterday unveiled plans to launch the two largest purpose-built cruise ships in the world. It also revealed it had bought a Bahamian island to be a Disney-themed port of call for cruise passengers.

Disney plans to have its first ship, the 85,000-ton *Disney Magic* liner, in service by the beginning of 1998 and a second vessel, *Disney Wonder*, launched later that year. Both will be built in Trieste, Italy.

The decision to build its own cruise ships comes amid reports that Disney is interested in buying the *Queen Elizabeth II* from the troubled Cunard Line. Disney sources now say such a move is unlikely. Disney used to own the *Queen Mary* liner, which was moored at Long Beach, California, and operated as a themed hotel. The company sold the ship in the early 1990s.

The Disney cruise ships will have 880 rooms and a capacity of 2,400 passengers. Most of the crew will be American, but officers and catering staff will include a large proportion of Europeans. The vessels will be fitted out in Disney style, with a three-storey atrium lobby featuring a sweeping staircase in the grand manner of the great transatlantic ocean liners of the past. There will be a 1,040-seater theatre with Broadway-quality entertainment, plus a cinema and a 5,500 sq ft shopping mall. Three themed restaurants will cater for families, and a dinner restaurant will serve adults only.

Disney plans to sell four-day cruises around the Caribbean, including a stopover at its 1,000-acre island. The ships will be based at Port Canaveral, Florida, about an hour and a half's drive from Walt Disney World in Orlando. The cruise packages will probably include a three or four-night stay at Disney World.

This is part of Disney's new strategy of extending its grip on holidaymakers by offering them vacations other than visits to its theme park resorts. It has recently opened two resort hotels, at Vero Beach in Florida and at Hilton Head island in South Carolina.

Disney has yet to set the prices for its cruise ships, but it is believed to be aiming at the middle to upper price range rather than the budget sector, where the Caribbean cruise market is already showing excess capacity.

A Disney spokesman said: "We aim to offer the Disney quality and experience rather than just be another cruise operator."

The first cruise brochure will be published in July this year. Bookings for the initial cruises in 1998 will be taken from August.

Ferries suffer as Britons stay at home

BY STEVE KEENAN

THE number of day-trip shoppers taking the ferry to France has plunged by up to 30 per cent this winter.

P&O European Ferries and Stena Line have been hit by a double broadside of a stormy winter and fierce competition from Eurotunnel.

The losses are a big blow for the ferries, which rely on duty-free and on-board sales for at least a quarter of their revenue, and which face increased competition this summer.

In 1995, one million travellers took day-trips in the first three months of the year, the ferry operators filling otherwise empty ships by offering day-trips for as little as £1.

But this year the figure has fallen by more than 250,000, say the ferries, with the miserable weather in January and February partly to blame for keeping people at home.

The scrapping of temporary passports, the strength of the franc and the supermarket price-war in the UK are other factors for the slump.

"The market is depressed, the British visitors passport has disappeared, and people haven't got the money," said a spokesman for P&O.

P&O is the UK's biggest duty-free ferry operator, which accounts for 30 per cent of the company's £600 million annual revenue. Customers spend an average of £20 on board and more in Calais supermarkets.

"Last year, the market hotted up with cheap fares, which coincided with a nice spell of weather in January and February," said Martin Brown, owner of the Grape Shops in Boulogne and Calais.

"This year, there are still cheap fares but we have had a run of bad weather through January. It has been fairly quiet in Calais."

One company doing better than 1995 is the car-carrying Le Shuttle service through the Channel Tunnel. Le Shuttle is offering 66 per cent off high-street prices, reducing, for example, a bottle of Gilbeys gin to £4.65.

The company is again extending its sales area at the Folkestone terminal in time for Easter, which will treble its original duty-free space. "We think the 66 per cent offer has attracted 15 per cent additional traffic this winter," said a spokesman.

In February, more than 117,000 cars were carried on Le Shuttle, double the figure in February last year. Nearly 3,000 coaches also travelled last month.

Cross-Channel travellers can buy duty-free goods on the outbound and return journeys, and also spend a day in French hypermarkets buying cheap duty-paid goods.

Losses to Customs & Excise were last year estimated at £110 million, with 3 per cent of all beer drunk in Britain imported.

French Eurostar plans faster routes

BY RACHAEL JOLLEY

FRENCH Railways is planning to win more British customers from the airlines when it launches a new range of Eurostar services in the summer. The company is to offer quicker connections to the south of France and Brittany which avoid Paris.

New connections linking with Eurostar via Lille will include TGVs to Bordeaux, La Rochelle, Poiters, Rennes and Nantes. Journey times will be cut by up to an hour and a half when the new services begin in June.

Jean Michel Ditner, managing director of French Railways UK, said the new routes would compete with airlines for pricing and travelling time. He said: "We will be as imaginative as the airlines."

Eurostar claims to have won 50 per cent of the traffic from London to Paris away from the airlines since its launch and M Ditner is convinced it would gain even more customers.

Connection times at Lille between Eurostar and existing French Railways services would be improved so customers did not have to wait so long, he said.

A Eurostar/TGV service to the Alps, run for skiers for the first time this winter, will be available for a longer period of time next year. And direct Eurostar services to the south of France are planned for the future.

Consortium London and Continental is to take over the running of European Passenger Services, the UK Eurostar operator, in the summer. It is already planning a price war with the airlines. M Ditner said he expected to see a wider range of fares with specialised tickets, such as Apex and Super Apex, similar to those offered by airlines.

Mike Gates, a director at Hogg Robinson, said there was no doubt the new connections would make train travel more attractive. "It certainly will have an impact. It becomes quite a reasonable option for those on business," he said.



SPECTRUM

Sri Lanka's cricket World Cup win has put its attractive resorts back on the tourist map

Sri Lanka bounces back

BY TONY DAWE

THE JOY in the streets of Colombo this week as crowds celebrated Sri Lanka's cricket World Cup win has been shared by British airlines and tour operators.

They had identified the country as a booming travel destination. The operators increased the number of flights and holidays, but suffered a drop in tourism after the bomb that killed 80 people in Colombo in January. Now, with wider public awareness of Sri Lanka, they forecast a rise in visitors.

John Sim, of Kuoni, said: "The happy news will do an awful lot to restore holidaymakers' confidence in Sri Lanka. The war with the Tamil Tigers did not affect bookings adversely until the Colombo bomb. The decision of the Australian and West Indies cricket teams to forfeit their matches in Sri Lanka also influenced tourists and numbers fell."

Kuoni's Sri Lanka bookings rose by 44 per cent last year. Most holidaymakers combining time in a beach hotel with an island tour to see ancient cities, waterfalls and wildlife. Tours that included a night in Colombo have, however, been reorganised to send visitors to beach and airport hotels.

The increased tourist appeal is being especially welcomed by Thomson, which has planned a big increase in the number of Sri Lankan holidays it offers. It hopes to take between 6,000 and 8,000 tourists on its winter and forthcoming summer programmes, compared with 1,000 in the previous year.

British Airways will also be cheered because it restarted regular services to Colombo only four months ago. And Britannia and Monarch Airlines operate regular charter flights.

Vimal Wickremaratne, of the Sri Lanka tourist office in London, said: "Winning the World Cup has given Sri Lanka a great boost, especially in the UK market, because of British interest in cricket. Visitors from the UK increased by a third to 63,000 last year, but the bomb led to cancellations and a drop in inquiries.."

The Foreign Office advises tourists to avoid the north and east of the island, but says the main tourist resorts and "cultural triangle" are unaffected.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

JERSEY Travel Service is offering four-day Easter breaks including hotel, car hire and free tickets to the zoo from £199 a person, with flights on April 4 or 5. Details: 0181-891 6020.

☐ CORSICAN holidays, with children going free or half-price, are available from Holiday Options. Departing from Gatwick on Easter Sunday, the adult price for a week in an apartment is £299 and for bed and breakfast in a hotel £279. Details: 0171-637 4422.

☐ VENICE for two nights for £177, including flights and accommodation, is available from Lupus Travel from April 7. Details: 0171-306 3000.

☐ SPECIAL offers to coincide with the Greek Easter festivities in Crete are available from Portland Holidays, with a week's self-catering holiday costing £204, and half-board in a hotel £278. Departures are from Gatwick on April 11. Details: 0990 002200.

☐ MICHELIN-star restaurants are featured in Brittany Ferries' short-break programme for April, with Portsmouth-Caen sailings, dinner, bed and breakfast at Château de Sully for £183.50. Details: 0171-771 7010.

☐ JAZZ bands will be playing aboard the *Monterey* on her seven-night Mediterranean cruise on April 15. Prices, from Mediterranean Shipping Cruises, start at £475. Details: 0171-637 2525.

☐ SPRING Bank Holiday bargains are now on offer from Lunn Poly, including a week's self-catering in Antigua for £529 departing Gatwick on May 23. Details: 01203 225888.

HOTELS

HUNT for a solid gold Fabergé Easter egg worth £845 while staying or eating at the Four Seasons hotel in London over Easter. Weekend room rates start at £230 a night. Details: 0171-499 0888.

☐ A RATE of £99 a person in a double room for three nights, plus dinner on one night, is available over the Easter weekend at the four-star Petersham hotel at Richmond, Surrey. Details: 0181-940 7471.

☐ TWO Easter eggs, along with full breakfast, are on offer at Dukes hotel in St James's, London, over Easter. Double room rates are £160 a night. Details: 0171-491 4840.

☐ THE Montcalm Hotel Nikko, central London, is giving champagne and afternoon tea to guests staying two nights or more between April 1-15. A standard double costs £139.25 a night. Details: 0171-402 4288.

☐ CHOICE Hotels is offering free accommodation and meals for children staying with their parents at Quality or Comfort Inn hotels. Half-board £33 a person a night. Details: 0800 444 444.

☐ VISITORS to the new Legoland theme park which opens next week can take advantage of a special weekend offer from the nearby Oakley Court hotel. Two nights' half-board accommodation, plus a boat trip on the Thames with admission to Legoland and Windsor Castle costs £208 for adults and £58 for children sharing their parents' room. Details: 01753 609988.

FLIGHTS

AER LINGUS is undercutting British Airways' New York business-class fare by more than £800. BA's direct-flight price is £2,504, whereas executives prepared to change planes in Dublin pay £1,650 with Aer Lingus. 0181-899 4747.

☐ EASYJET is launching Luton-Amsterdam flights on April 24. One-way fares will start at £35. Details 01582 445566.

☐ TRAVEL Warehouse has a £503 seat-sale fare to Kuala Lumpur flying Malaysian airlines. The agent also has a special fare of £595 to Cairns, Sydney or Brisbane, flying Japan Airlines via Tokyo or Osaka. 0171-414 8808.

☐ UNITED Airlines has lowered its first and business-class fares between London and Delhi. First class now costs £2,325 (£3,323 normally) and business £1,449 (£2,074). The airline provides passengers with free pre-flight hotel accommodation at Heathrow. 0181-990 9900.

☐ CUT-PRICE airline AB Shannon is now flying three times a day Gatwick-Shannon with return fares starting at £75. 0345 464748.

☐ British Airways has introduced a lower £109 seat-sale fare between Manchester and Amsterdam. (£148 previously). 0345 221111.

☐ CONTINENTAL Airlines has introduced a telephone check-in facility at Gatwick and Manchester for business-class passengers flying to the USA. Passengers call 0800 747800 from 06.30 hrs until one hour before departure.

Bumper boost for Irish tourist trade

BY TONY DAWE AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE boom in tourism to Ireland has been given extra impetus by travellers from the other side of the world, according to the latest figures from both the Irish and Northern Ireland tourist boards.

Holidaymakers from Australia, New Zealand and Japan are among the groups visiting the two countries in vastly increased numbers, with little sign of the setback in the peace process deterring them.

Visitors from the Australian continent to the Republic rose last year to 90,000 while 20,000 went to the North, compared with 68,000 and 9,000 in 1994. The number of visitors from Britain also rose markedly.

Tourism in the Republic has been given a further boost by the inclusion for the first time of eight Irish country house hotels in the Elegant Resorts' luxury hotels in Europe brochure. They include the Kildare Hotel and Country Club created by Michael Smurfit, the Irish entrepreneur, the Mount Juliet Estate in Co Kilkenny, Ashford Castle, Co Mayo and Dromoland Castle, Co Clare.

"The quality of hotels in Ireland is superb and that combined with the peace process and requests by our clients has encouraged us to expand into the country," said Geoffrey Moss, Elegant Resorts' managing director.

But the "really good news" about the large increase in visitors to Northern Ireland, comes from Baroness Denton, Ulster's economy minister. "More than 460,000 people came to Northern Ireland for a holiday and nine out of ten said they wanted to come back," she said

Battle over city breaks

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE travel giant Thomson is setting up a separate unit to sell city breaks in an attempt to regain its share of the rapidly expanding market.

The company is offering independent breaks in 14 of the most popular cities around the world at prices ranging from £129 for a night in Paris to seven nights in New York at the Waldorf Astoria for £999.

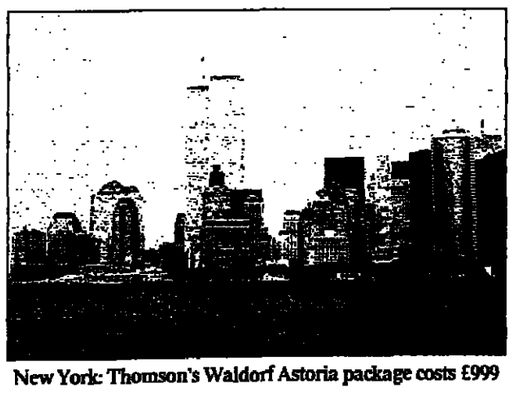
Steve Allen, Thomson commercial director says: "Five years ago Thomson was market leader but during the recession we went back to our core business and allowed small specialist companies to move into city breaks. As a result we took our eye off the ball and our share of the market has slumped to only about 5 per cent.

"We can be much more flexible than small operators because we can use our size and our experience to obtain the best deals."

But the smaller competitors claim that they are able to provide the better service. Chris Kirker, of Kirker Holidays, who specialises in city breaks and who is also chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators, claims Thomson is "becoming desperate".

"They are discovering that the traditional package holiday is virtually dead and they are trying to get a footing in other markets" he says.

"They will find it a very different business. Small companies such as mine can look after our customers on an individual basis and with our lower overheads also keep prices down."



New York: Thomson's Waldorf Astoria package costs £999

Shortfall in holidays forecast

BY LINSEY MCNEIL

ONE MILLION people in Britain will be unable to get the package holiday they want this summer because the number on sale has been heavily reduced, according to a leading tour operator.

A 25 per cent drop in bookings at the start of the year led the UK's five largest operators to cut their summer capacity by approximately 11 per cent, but business has since picked up and Paul Brett, chairman and chief executive of Thomson Travel Group, said operators had fewer holidays left to sell than they had this time last year.

"By mid-April there will be three million people chasing the two million holidays tour operators have left, and inevitably some people will not be able to get the holiday they want," he said.

Mr Brett claimed the capacity reductions by operators also meant there would be fewer last-minute bargains around than there have been in previous summers. "I know the public has heard this all before," he said, "when operators have been trying to persuade people to book early, but this year there really will be fewer holidays and fewer bargains because, for the first time, operators have actually reduced capacity."

Market research carried out last month at A.T. Mays, the UK's largest travel agency chain, seems to confirm Thomson's claims.

Mays said its nationwide research revealed 81 per cent of those questioned in the north of England were still waiting to book their summer holiday while 79 per cent of those asked in the South and 75 per cent of those in Scotland had still not booked. Almost half said they planned to do so between May and October. When asked why they were waiting, 52 per cent said they were hanging on for a better deal.

"This is confirmation that people are still very keen to take an overseas holiday but that they are leaving it later to book," said Roddie MacPhee, A.T. Mays' marketing director.

"Unfortunately that may mean many people will be unable to get a holiday; there are definitely fewer holidays around now than there were at this time last year."

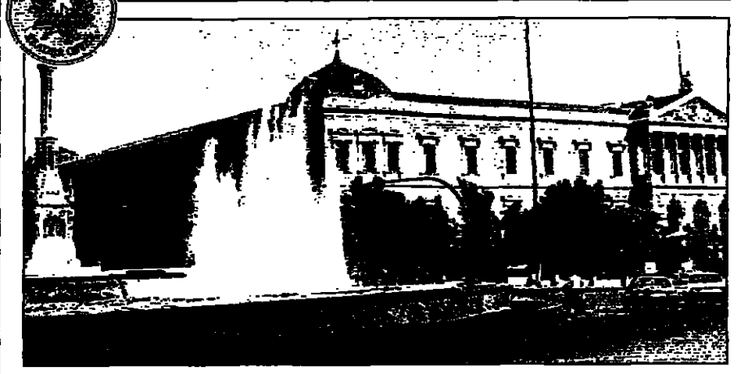
SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world again in **Weekend** on Saturday

Burma — should tourists go?
Brigid Callaghan in Sardinia
Robin Neillands in the British Virgin islands
Doug Sager on cybernet ski

plus
Pakistan and the Seychelles

Cultural days and lively evenings



MADRID
Four nights from just £169 per person
Departing Wednesday 1st May 1996

Set deep in the heart of Spain, this bustling, cosmopolitan capital offers a blend of history, culture and sophistication. Visit the splendour of the Royal Palace, the treasure of the famous Museo del Prado and the colonnaded Plaza Mayor in the old quarter. Stroll along the Gran Via with its many elegant shops, or relax in a pavement cafe and enjoy the atmosphere of this vivacious city. For entertainment see a traditional flamenco show, or join the Madrilenos for a delicious meal in one of the traditional tapas bars hidden away in the narrow streets of old Madrid. Optional excursions include a panoramic city sightseeing tour and a full day trip to the imperial Toledo, home of El Greco.

The holiday price includes:

- Return flights to Madrid from London Gatwick. Your flight leaves Gatwick on Wednesday morning and is due back at Gatwick early Monday morning.
- Four nights accomodation in the three star Hotel Centro Norte. £169 per person based on two people sharing a twin/double room.
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Shadow of drugs case about to lift from troubled runner

Modahl ready to face the world

Andrew Longmore on the rehabilitation of an athlete with Georgia on her mind



Family comforts — husband Vicente and daughter Imani — have helped Modahl. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

If friends ringing the Modahl household over the past ten days have been greeted by an unfamiliar sound. "Hello, this is Diane Modahl . . ." says the voice on the answerphone. They might even have been intercepted by the lady in person.

Talking to a machine might not seem conclusive proof of Modahl's return to society, but enough of the callers have responded with the words: "Hey, Diane, it's good to hear your voice again" to highlight the significance of the deed. When she arrived back from the Commonwealth Games in 1994, not as the 800 metres champion but branded a common drug cheat, Modahl shut herself away from family and friends. She did not answer the phone for 18 months.

Now, Modahl is not only talking to the world again, she is also thinking of competing against it once more, which could prove the hardest task of all. Last weekend she won the national team cross-country championship with Sale Harriers. Today, she flies out to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to continue the long process of mental and physical rehabilitation at a training camp run by her Norwegian-born husband, Vicente.

By Monday morning, if a meeting of the arbitration panel of the International Amateur Athletic Federation this weekend has confirmed her innocence, as is widely expected, the long fight will effectively be over. "I'll believe it when I hear it," Modahl said with understandable force. Only a few scores would then be left unsettled with the British Athletic Federation (BAF), which banned her from athletics for four years after a positive drugs test in Portugal in the summer of 1994, then overturned the ban on appeal, six months later.

Modahl is suing the BAF for £480,000, but the cost of almost two lost years cannot be expressed in figures, whatever the "for sale" sign outside her house might suggest.

Sitting in her living room, her husband's arm stretched protectively round her as it has been, spiritually, throughout her difficulties, Modahl recalled her first race back, in the unlikely setting of Derby County Football Club's ground, on a wet and miserable Valentine's Day.

"Even down to the last minute, I was looking for a way out because I still hadn't decided whether I wanted to race again. There was no one around. Then, about 45 minutes before the start, a few people began to arrive, the markers went up and I thought: 'Right then, I'd better warm up.'" She won the race and for the first time began to look forward instead of back.

Whether that will mark the first step on the road to full Olympic competition is not quite so clear. Modahl will not commit herself, other than to say it is in the back of her mind. "I've gone through a lot of different stages," she said. "Initially I was confused, bemused and hurt and I just cut off from everyone. I was introverted and distant, depressed, hysterical. I had lost my belief in human nature."

She felt surrounded by reminders of the case. "I could see my running spikes, see my medals hung up on the walls and Vicente on the phone constantly to the lawyers. It was like being a prisoner, but voluntarily. I didn't really want to go out because people would shout at me: 'Hey, Diane, keep going, we're right behind you,' and even though they meant well, it brought everything back.

"Then, as the light started to shine more brightly, I began to be more confident again. I was beginning to talk more to my family and friends and to be more positive. But I was still asking myself: 'Do I really want to go back to a sport that's done this to me?' I once regarded athletics as fun, easy, enjoyable, motivating. It is a big step trying to recover that magic, because that's what has been taken away from me." At times she talks in the third person, as if Diane Modahl was really someone else altogether.

In a sense she was. In the darkest hours, Vicente had to watch his wife's every move. Once, he found her brandishing a two-foot long Norwegian hunting knife, a present from his mother. At one stage, she stopped running. "When I first got back from Canada, I just ran and ran, to release the anger, I suppose. But as the case went on, I found it harder and harder. I would go out and do 100 metres, 200 metres and have to come home."

The birth of her daughter, Imani, (the name is Swahili for "hope") six months ago has brought some sense of perspective without stilling the anger. Athletics will never be her life as once it was, just a part of it, along with her roles as student (she completes her final examinations in media studies at Manchester University in May), wife, mother and *cause célèbre*. Atlanta still seems a long way off.

"Getting back that feeling of running fast and comfortably. That will be the hardest thing. But I'd like to see how far I can go, channel all the negative energy of the last 18 months on to the track and push myself to the limits, not because I am desperate to make the Olympic team, but just to see what Diane Modahl can do." At the age of 29, it is not too late. The spirit of the athlete might yet prove to be her salvation.

SPORTS LETTERS

England in need of new cricketing structure

From Mr S. J. B. Langdale

Sir, For something like half a century England's Test match record has been disappointing overall, with more matches lost than won against the major Test match-playing countries since 1950.

One thing that is different about cricket in England is the structure of the first-class game, whereby only those who are willing to play cricket full-time become eligible for English teams. This means effectively that these teams have to be chosen from the relatively small pool of 18 county staffs.

In other Test match countries people who have not had to stake their all on making a living from county cricket and who play high-grade club cricket much of the time are eligible to graduate to state or provincial sides and then to Test cricket when good enough. Even though the populations of most of these countries are very much smaller than that of the United Kingdom, they are able effectively to choose their teams from a wider pool.

It is arguable whether Test and county cricket is more important but, since the counties could not maintain their present programmes without revenue from Test matches, there is a strong case for scrapping full-time professional cricket in England and replacing it with the sort of limited provincial or state competitions that exist elsewhere with rather more success than can be claimed for the products of the largely unwatched English county four-day game.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. B. LANGDALE,
Park House, Culworth,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From the Reverend Barry Browning

Sir, I wonder how long it will be before those in authority within our national summer sport act on the realisation that our top cricketers play far too much.

When we saw them play in South Africa and then the World Cup, they just looked stale. I understand that the South African cricketing authorities have insisted that, if Shaun Pollock is to join Warwickshire, there must be a clause in his contract limiting the amount of cricket he is allowed to play. It is obvious that overseas authorities realise our top players play too much.

It would be very interesting to look at the number of days' competitive cricket that the top English cricketers play in a year and compare this with the top cricketers from the other leading cricketing countries.

Yours sincerely,
BARRY BROWNING,
The Rectory, Roche,
St Austell, Cornwall.

One-day superior

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, In cricket, rugby and football England have now achieved the dismal distinction of demonstrating flair-free playing styles around ten years behind their leading international opponents. Our cricket has seen the most spectacular decline.

I would entirely agree with John Bryant (Bryant's Eye, March 14) that limited-overs one-day cricket must inevitably overtake Test cricket in popularity, if only for practical, commercial and economic considerations. Who these days wants to pay £30-odd to watch one day of a five-day Test match which may well end in a draw, when, for much the same amount, he can see a complete international game with a guaranteed win/lose result?

In my experience the detractors of the one-day game are almost in every case those who have never actually played it. Having played both types of game myself, I have no doubt that the limited-overs version is the more demanding because there is no draw to hide behind if things go badly. It is also superior because it places equal importance on batting, bowling and fielding.

My ideal format would be a compromise: a two-day, 100-overs-each game under normal rules, with no limitation on bowlers' overs or field-placings and played in whites for the purists. But what a pity that both the England chairman and our captain had to disparage one-day cricket in order to try to excuse England's inept performance.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladwyn Road,
Putney, SW15.

From Dr Valerie Goldberg

Sir, I take John Bryant's point that one-day cricket is a valid sport in its own right, but while I accept that the 30-metre ring for field placing may be necessary to prevent defensive play, I cannot agree with him about the field placing regulations in the first 15 overs.

For me, beautiful strokes played against bowlers restricted in this way are about as meaningful as beautiful strokes played in the nets. In the past, with the possible exceptions of the leg-side fielders rule and the restrictions on bouncers, the laws of cricket relating to the game as played on the field have only been altered in attempts to preserve the balance between bat and ball.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE GOLDBERG,
6 Hollycroft Avenue,
Wembley, Middlesex.

Shades of blue

From Mr Ian Sheldon

Sir, The difference between Oxford University Torpids and Cambridge University Lents, to which Mr Philip Wedmore referred (Sports Letters, March 8), arises from the different rules governing the actions of crews after a bump has occurred.

In Lents the race is over for both crews, whose positions are reversed on the next day. So, for each crew moving up, one must move down.

In Torpids, however, only the crew that has recorded a bump drops out, while the crew that has been bumped must continue rowing. This leads to the possibility of one crew being bumped by many others on the same day, hence the imbalance between risers and fallers. In practice, a drop of more than two places is usually the result of crashing into the bank!

As for which system is better for undergraduates' moral attitudes, one would hope that performance on the sports field has no bearing on the behaviour off it. Some football "fans" might take note.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SHELDON,
University College,
Oxford.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The declarer (Howard Cohen) confessed to erring on this hand.

Dealer South **Love all** **Rubber Bridge**

	♠Q32 ♥AKJ4 ♦AKQ4 ♣A2	
♠K5 ♥Q9865 ♦J976 ♣109	N W E S	♠J8 ♥1072 ♦108532 ♣KQ3
	♠A109764 ♥3 ♦— ♣J87654	

Contract: Six Spades by South Lead: ten of clubs

North opened Two Clubs and over South's Two Diamond response rebid 2NT, showing a balanced 23-24 points. South bid Three Spades and jumped to Six Spades over North's raise to Four Spades. That was a complete gamble, and I think it is against the odds. If North has a highly suitable hand for play in spades he will not just raise Three Spades to Four Spades — he will make what is known as an 'advance cue-bid'. Change North's spade holding to K32 and he would have bid Four Clubs over Three Spades, showing a maximum raise to Four Spades with club control.

South won the club with the ace, and played a spade to the ace. When that didn't drop the king, he continued with a heart to the jack. All followed on three rounds of diamonds and two more rounds of hearts, South disposing of his five losing clubs in the process. Although it was safe for West to discard his queen of hearts under the ace or king, he held on to it. How do you think the declarer should continue?

South knew that West was not overruffing the hearts, so he led a heart from the table, with the idea of ruffing and leading towards the queen of spades. This catered for West having started with KJx of spades. However East was able to ruff the fourth heart with the jack of spades, and the contract went down.

At the point where the declarer had to come off dummy, the defence had two hearts left, three diamonds and three clubs. Hence, as Cohen pointed out later, the defence are less likely to get a damaging ruff if declarer plays either a diamond or a club — Had the declarer done that, he would have made his unsound contract.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Saddam's gambit

Kirsan Ilumzinov, controversial President of Fide, the world chess federation, confirmed this week that the Fide world championship match between Anatoly Karpov (Russia) and Gata Kamsky (US) would be going ahead in Baghdad, in spite of protests from the world chess community.

Ilumzinov said: "Saddam Hussein will make the first move in the Hotel El Rashid in Baghdad. He will be wearing civilian clothes not military uniform. Israel and Iceland have threatened to leave Fide if the match goes ahead in Baghdad but I don't take their threats seriously. A French newspaper has also written that Fide is selling its soul for $2 million, but such negative comments also help to create publicity for the match.

"I have contacted UN General Secretary Boutros Boutros Ghali to enquire whether playing chess can be forbidden anywhere, in Europe, the Middle East or the Antarctic? Iraq has been invited to the Olympic Games in Atlanta and there will be a qualifying leg of the football World Cup in Baghdad in May. If football is allowed, why not chess?"

Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

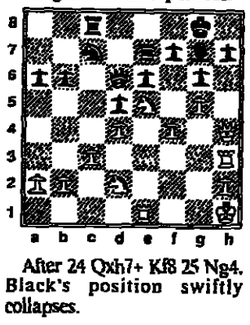
White: Nigel Short
Black: MChess Pro
Guayaquil, February 1995

Torre Attack

1	d4	Nf6
2	c3	e6
3	Bg5	c5
4	e3	b6
5	Nd2	d5
6	Bd3	Be7
7	f4	0-0
8	Ngf3	Ba6
9	Bxa6	Nxa6
10	0-0	Nc7
11	Ne5	Qd6
12	Qf3	Rfe8
13	Rae1	Rac8
14	Kh1	a6
15	g4	Rb8
16	Bxf6	Bxf6
17	g5	Be7
18	Qh5	g6
19	Qh6	Bf8
20	Qh4	Re7
21	Rf3	cxd4
22	exd4	Rc8
23	Rh3	Bg7

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



After 24 Qxh7+ Kf8 25 Ng4, Black's position swiftly collapses.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ZEITGEIST
a. A chess impasse
b. A treasure hunt
c. Spirit of the age

FLAGITIOUS
a. Wicked
b. Importunate
c. Prevaricating

CALEFACIENT
a. Facing both ways
b. Cutting a path
c. Warming

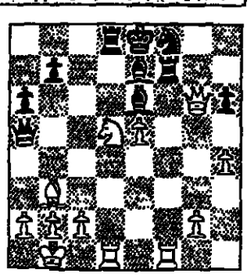
SPHRAGISTICS
a. The study of seals
b. Explosive science
c. Body-building exercises

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Giles - Browne, Boston 1988. The black king is defended by many pieces but these units are also depriving him of breathing space. How did White complete the suffocation with an attractive tactical sequence?



Solution, page 46

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Exeter

Going: good to soft

2.10 (2m 2f hdle) 1, ALLAHRAKHA (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 2, Urban Lily (T Dascombe, 25-1); 3, High Post (S Burrough, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Toute Bagatlle, 11 Molland Moor (4th), 14 Logie (pu), 16 Debos, 25 Fortunes Rose (6th), Killing Time (5th), Lawbuster, Pacific Overture, 40 Time To Move, 50 Vexford Model, 66 Seasons (pu), Stay Happy, Valley's Choice, 100 Duality. 17 ran. NR: Kreef. 4l, nk, 3l, 5l, 15l Mrs J Retter at Exeter. Tote: £4.80; £1.40, £4.20, £2.10. DF: £53.20. Trio: £45.70. CSF: £94.13. No bid

2.40 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, TITAN EMPRESS (C Maude, 25-1); 2, Puncheon Gale (G Tormey, 9-2); 3, Smiling Chief (R Dunwoody, 4-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Maestro Paul (l), 11-2 Mellon Pride (pu), 8 Dusky Rover (5th), 10 Seasamacamile, 11 Sharp Performer (4th), 14 Chelsea Native, Master Ryon (f), 20 Just One Canaletto (6th), 25 Derrymoss (f), 33 Dunkery Beacon (pu). 13 ran. ½l, 14l, 7l, 12l, 11/4l S Mellor at Swindon Tote: £32.60; £4.30, £2.90, £3.00. DF: £58.10. Trio not won (pool of £318.04 carried forward to 2.05 at Doncaster today). CSF: £132.40. Tricast: £520.72

3.10 (3m 2f hdle) 1, COOL CLOWN (D Bridgwater, 11-1); 2, Flow (P Holley, 7-1); 3, Royal Piper (R Dunwoody, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Domrine, 13-2 Top Javalin (pu), 11 Jadidh (6th), 14 The Boiler White (pu), Wreckless Men (5th), 20 Staunch Rival, 66 I'm Toby (4th) 10 ran. Nk, 23l, 10l, 12l, 12l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £12.90; £3.00, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £33.40. Trio: £40.30. CSF: £77.19. Tricast: £296.29

3.40 (2m 2f ch) 1, GALES CAVALIER (R Dunwoody, 5-4 fav); 2, Super Tactics (Mr P Henley, 5-2); 3, Northern Saddler (J F Titley, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Bold Choice (4th), 16 Billy Bathgate (pu), 5 ran. 4l, 11l, 7l. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote: £2.00, £1.40, £1.30. DF: £3.50. CSF: £4.87. Placepot: £33.90. Quadpot: £2.70.

☐ Remainder of meeting abandoned because of poor visibility.

Towcester

Going: good to soft

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, ZAMRAH (Mr D Dinniwater, 2-1); 2, Forcing Two (Mr M Fitzgerald, 8-1); 3, Rosie (Mr N Kent, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Bold Pursuit (4th), 8 Ean Mor (5th), 12 Alto Princess, 14 Toshano, 25 Sizzonnie (pu), 33 Southern Ridge (6th), Tursal (ro). 10 ran. Sh hd, 21l, 6l, 1¼l, 13l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £3.80, £5.50. DF: £24.60. Trio: £89.00. CSF: £17.82. No bid

2.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1, MY WIZARD (P Hide, 3-1); 2, Artic Wings (M Brennan, 9-4 fav); 3, Another Venture (P Carberry, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Martha's Daughter (l), 9-2 Bold Dolphin (f). 5 ran. NR: Sizzling Affair. ¾l, 3l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £1.50. DF: £3.50. CSF: £9.81

3.20 (2m 5f hdle) 1, SELATAN (D Ford, 7-2 fav); 2, Scarba (L Wyer, 9-2), 3, Don Du Castran (A Thornton, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 5 Marine Society (4th), 9 Pinecone Peter, 11 Kinoko (pu), 12 Nick The Beak (5th), 14 Mr Taylor (pu), 16 Browned Off (pu), Deming Valley, Five Flags, 25 Alice's Mirror (6th), 33 Tim Soldier, 50 Heathyards Boy. 14 ran. 1¾l, 2½l, 3½l, 1¼l, 5l. D Gandolfo at Wantage Tote: £3.70; £1.20, £2.80, £1.50. DF: £7.70. Trio: £16.40. CSF: £20.52. Tricast: £84.27.

3.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, MAKES ME GOOSEY (L Harvey, 7-2); 2, Shamarphil (Miss S Barraclough, 14-1); 3, Nicklup (A Thornton, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Lance Armstrong (6th), 7-2 Florida Sky, 4 Steeple Jack (4th), 20 Ghia Gneuiagh (5th). 7 ran. Nk, 1¼l, 1¼l, 4l, 8l. Mrs I McKie at Twyford. Tote: £4.70; £2.50, £18.20. DF: £90.70. CSF: £42.56

4.20 (2m 6f ch) 1, CALL HOME (Mr T Hills, 11-4); 2, Teasplanter (Mr B Pollock, 2-7 fav); 3, Vulcan Star (Mr T Byrne, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 50 Abbs Lad (5th), Antrim County (4th). 5 ran. ½l, dist, 8l, dist. Miss S Edwards at Pulborough. Tote: £3.60; £6.10, £1.00. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.00

4.50 (2m 5f hdle) 1, INJECTABUCK (A Thornton, 3-1 jf-fav); 2, Foxtrot Romeo (G Bradley, 8-1); 3, Simple Simon (R Johnson, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jf-fav Tuffymurry Tofi (6th), 4 Mystic Isle, 8 Glitter Isle (4th), 14 Maurachas, 20 Deep Fair, 25 Shers Delight (5th), 33 Country Town, Imola (pu), J'Accuse, Kia Tak Mac (pu), 50 Imaloff (pu), See More Ghosts (pu), Spartan Flyer (pu). 16 ran. NR: Ask Me Kindly, Ruffitrade. 7l, 1¼l, 5l, 5l, 1¼l, K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £3.10, £1.70. DF: £17.10. Trio: £24.20. CSF: £28.88.

5.20 (2m hdle) 1, SILVERDALE FOX (M A Fitzgerald, 9-1); 2, Colorful Ambition (J Railton, 8-1), 3, Plimth (L Wyer, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Children's Choice, 7 Zingibar, 15-2 Bletschhorn Bard (4th), Lyphard's Fable (6th), 8 Be Brave, 14 Sunkala Shine (pu), 16 Lagham Lad (5th), Parisian (l), 33 Black Stag (pu), Simply A Sequel (pu), 40 Absolute Folly, 50 Starlight Flyer. 15 ran. NR: Ian's Bid. 1¾l, 2½l, 4l, 13l, 9l. K Hogg at Isle Of Man. Tote: £13.00; £4.50, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £26.70. Trio: £146.70. CSF: £79.88. Tricast: £571.75.

Placepot: £55.00. Quadpot: £16.20.

Ludlow

Going: good

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Mim-Lou-And (Mr J Culloty, 9-4 fav); 2, Tadellal (5-1); 3, Uxos (6-1) 17 ran. 7l, 3½l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £1.50, £3.20. DF: £11.60. Trio: £9.90. CSF: £14.74.

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, The Caumrue (A P McCoy, 13-8 fav); 2, Brom (7-4); 3, Soul Trader (12-1). 8 ran. 3½l, 12l. G Balding. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £1.20, £1.40. DF: £2.20. CSF: £4.65

3.00 (3m ch) 1, Wild Illusion (Mr Richard White, 5-8 fav); 2, Ross Venture (33-1); 3, Sams Heritage (10-1). 7 ran. 15l, dist. Miss J Pidgeon. Tote: £1.70; £1.40, £3.50. DF: £10.10. CSF: £22.05

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Holy Wanderer (G Hogan, 8-1); 2, Daily Sport Girl (14-1); 3, Niagara Sound (7-1). Count Joker 4-1 fav 13 ran. 4l, 4l, T George. Tote: £8.60; £2.60, £4.60, £3.10. DF: £68.80. Trio: £235.40 (part won; pool of £132.65 carried forward to 2.05 at Doncaster today). CSF: £106.87. Tricast: £761.84

4.00 (2m ch) 1, Belafonta (J R Kavanagh, 14-1); 2, Ruppies (7-1), 3, Oliver Duckett (66-1). Bona Setter 15-8 fav. 8 ran. 1¼l, 8l. Miss K George. Tote: £11.10; £2.20, £1.20, £22.30. DF: £36.20. CSF: £92.85. Tricast: £5,324.03

4.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Hickelton Lad (Miss S Higgins, 20-1), 2, Tutmus George (9-1); 3, Kambalda Rambler (13-2). Pastoral Pride 7-2 fav. 17 ran. ¾l, ½l. D Williams. Tote: £8.50; £1.50, £2.30, £3.00. DF: £61.80. Trio: £409.40 (part won; pool of £86.51 carried forward to 2.05 at Doncaster today). CSF: £169.81

5.00 (2m hdle) 1, Mutatz (R Ferrant, 4-1), 2, Kippanbou (5-4 fav); 3, Indonesian (25-1) 17 ran. 3l, 11l. W Hern. Tote: £4.30; £1.10, £1.80, £5.80. DF: £2.90. Trio: £47.90. CSF: £9.17.

Placepot: £573.10. Quadpot: £213.20.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.15 Secret Spring. 2.15 Trying Again. 3.15 Beaurepaire. 3.45 Cavina. 4.20 Still In Business. 4.50 Hawaiian Sam. 5.20 Dashanti.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.50 Cavina.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Oaklands Word.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.15 BRITISH FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY MAIDEN HURDLE (£3,020: 2m) (18 runners)

1	00	BLUSTERY DAY 20 R Alner 6-11-2	A Thornton	–
2	0	CAMBRANO'S LAD 14 R Alner 5-11-2	Mr P Henley (5)	–
3	302	FABULOUS MITOTO 14 M Saunders 6-11-2	P Holley	72
4	11-P	FONTAINEBOUSE 96 (G) G Balding 6-11-2	A P McCoy	–
5	4	HEADWIND 69 J Gifford 5-11-2	P Hide	–
6	02	MILLERSFORD 22 N Gaselee 5-11-2	C Llewellyn	–
7	0/0	NUPDOWN EXPRESS 115 N Chance 6-11-2	D Leahy	–
8	56	PENROSE LAD 22 D Nicholson 6-11-2	R Johnson (3)	–
9	0/50	SOLDIER-B 126 A Foster 6-11-2	R Farrant	–
10	06	STEER POINT 126 R Frost 5-11-2	J Frost	–
11	/0-0	STORM POINT 209 H Howe 6-11-2	D Bridgwater	–
12	P	LITTLE SAL 20 R Alner 6-10-11	Mr J Jukes	–
13	0	DAZZLER 114 M Campion 4-10-8	J Railton	–
14		MODAJAJI 162F Miss L Bower 4-10-8	L Harvey	–
15		SECRET SPRING 19F P Hedger 4-10-8	R Dunwoody	–
16	0	STREFOLINO 14 T Barrow 4-10-8	S Burrough	–
17	0	CALGARY GIRL 15 P Nicholls 4-10-3	A Tory	–
18	P	WISSYWNS 10 J Mullins 4-10-3	S Curran (3)	–

2-1 Headwind, 7-2 Fabulous Mitoto, 7-1 Fontainebouge, 10-1 Penrose Lad, Secret Spring. 12-1 Canbrano's Lad, 14-1 others

2.45 PREMIER LIVESTOCK NOVICES CHASE (£3,734: 2m 5f) (12)

1	2112	TRYING AGAIN 9 (G,S) D Gandolfo 6-12-3	R Dunwoody	99
2	33P2	CAPENWRAY 14 (BF,S) J King 7-11-3	G Upton	92
3	420-	JINAL FRIZI 475 L Barrow 8-11-3	A Thornton	91
4	-P2U	OUR WIZZER 13 (S) J Mullins 7-11-3	S Curran	76
5	05	RIVER GALA 22 R Hodges 6-11-3	T Dascombe	90
6	1445	SUPREME MUSIC 10 (B,F) P Nicholls 7-11-3	A P McCoy	76
7	0U-0	WILD WEATHER 14 R Hodges 6-11-3	A Tory	–
8	3341	DAMAS 8 (B,S) M Pipe 5-11-1	D Bridgwater	88
9	43PP	LYRICAL SEAL 31 (B) D French Davis 8-10-12	P Holley	–
10	6P	ROSE GARDEN 19 R Pocock 7-10-12	B Fenton	–
11	PF-0	STAR OF KUWAIT 14 (B,F) N Thomson 12-10-12	R Farrant	58
12	P0PR	RAINCHECK 14 M Campion 5-10-8	J Railton	–

4-6 Trying Again, 4-1 Damas, 9-2 Capenwray, 8-1 Supreme Music, 12-1 River Gala, 20-1 Jinal Frizi, Wild Weather, 25-1 others.

3.15 STEWART TORY MEMORIAL TROPHY CHASE (Handicap: amateurs: £4,198: 3m 1f) (9)

1	4-4F	SYNDERBOROUGH LAD 21 (CD,BF,F,G) S Pike 10-12-0	S Malcolm (7)	88
2	411-	REAL PROGRESS 282 (F,G,S) P Hobbs 8-11-7	Richard White (7)	89
3	P083	DUHALLOW LODGE 5 (G,S) C Barwell 9-11-7	A Balding (7)	98
4	4312	BEAUREPAIRE 19 (G,S) R Alner 8-11-2	C Bonner (3)	88
5	22P4	DESERT RUN 105 (S) P Nicholls 8-10-12	J Culloty (5)	94
6	-15P	FULL OF FIRE 56 (F,S) K Bailey 9-10-7	M Arrayago	90
7	F006	FAIR BROTHER 16 (G,S) G Balding 10-10-4	Mr E James (7)	95
8	0418	GLEN MIRAGE 9 (F,G,S) M Coombe 11-10-1	Miss M Coombe (7)	88
9	2055	L'UOMO PIU 17 (F,G,S) A Barrow 12-10-0	P Henley (5)	90

2-1 Beaurepaire, 4-1 Real Progress, 9-2 Synderborough Lad, 6-1 Desert Run, 8-1 Duhallow Lodge, Full Of Fire, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: O Sherwood, 10 winners from 30 runners, 33.3%; M Pipe, 35 from 133, 26.3%, R Alner, 11 from 63, 17.5%, D Gandolfo, 6 from 35, 17.1%, J Gifford, 15 from 90, 16.7%, A Tarrell, 8 from 48, 16.7%

JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn, 11 winners from 69 rides, 15.9%; T Dascombe, 4 from 29, 13.8%, A P McCoy, 6 from 44, 13.6%; W Marston, 5 from 37, 13.5%, R Farrant, 6 from 48, 12.5%.

3.50 STRUTT & PARKER MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,495: 2m 6f) (18)

1	1223	CAVINA 66 (CD,BF,F,S) N Gaisford 6-11-8	L Wyer	88
2	D	BINGHAM'S NANNY 14 R Alner 6-11-2	A Thornton	–
3	0008	BONITA BLAKENEY 8 G Balding 6-11-2	A P McCoy	–
4	P	DUCKLING 128 C Mitchell 6-11-2	Sophie Mitchell (5)	–
5	00-0	ENNISTYMON 19 J Mullins 5-11-2	S Curran (3)	–
6	-300	GEMINI MIST 33 Mrs P Dutfield 5-11-2	P Holley	–
7	-52P	GLENGARRIE GIRL 14 (B,BF) M Pipe 6-11-2	D Bridgwater	88
8	0-0P	GREENACRES ROSE 8 (B) G Ham 6-11-2	S Burrough	–
9	U-U3	HONEYBED WOOD 10 I Brown 8-11-2	Mr A Brown (7)	78
10	00	JAUNTY JUNE 92 B Eckley 6-11-2	R Johnson (3)	–
11	00	LADY MESS 21 J Tuck 5-11-2	R Bellamy	86
12	P00	MISS NORMANT 14 M Thomson 6-11-2	R Farrant	–
13	120	MY OLD CHINA 70 (S) A Foster 7-11-2	C Llewellyn	–
14	0-U	PRION'S CORNER 97 R Hanifer 5-11-2	G Upton	–
15		TOLCARNE LADY K Bishop 7-11-2	A Tory	–
16	6P05	TURRET 17 R Brotherton 5-11-2	J Osborne	85
17	0/0P	UP THE TEMPO 59 P Farrell 7-11-2	Mitsuaki Hayashi	–
18	6560	YOUNG TESS 24 N Babbage 6-11-2	D Matthews (5)	83

2-1 Cavina, 9-2 Glengarrie Girl, 6-1 Honeybed Wood, 10-1 Turret, 12-1 Gentian Mist, 14-1 Young Tess, My Old Chine, 16-1 others

4.20 MARYLAND FARMS NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,194: 2m 5f) (15)

1	1-23	STILL IN BUSINESS 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Barber 8-12-6	Miss P Corling (5)	88
2	48-F	BANG ON TARGET 20 (B,S) J Bowen 8-12-0	P Healey (5)	80
3	/36-	BOLD IMP 18P Miss S Waugh 11-12-0	M Rimell (5)	–
4	3/P-	BRIGHT BURNS 18P (B,F,G,S) C Sweeting 11-12-0	Rupert Sweeting (7)	71
5	/142	CARRIGEEN LAD 15 (F,G,S) Mrs J Read 9-12-0	R Walsley (7)	95
6	F12-	DREWITTS DANCER 308 (F) Mrs A Hawkins 9-12-0	P O'Keeffe (7)	75
7	113-	FOUR RIVERS 304 (F,G) Mrs L Redman 11-12-0	R Lawther (7)	78
8	4320	GREAT UNCLE 18 (F,G) J Dobbie 8-12-0	Miss A Goschen (7)	63
9	40-P	HAYE BUSTER 19 A Steel 11-12-0	A Phillips (7)	–
10	1/3U	KING'S TREASURE 18P (BF,F,G,S) I Balding 7-12-0	A Balding (7)	–
11	-54P	NOTANOTHERONE 16 (S) R Light 8-12-0	S Lloyd (7)	–
12	2-21	OAKLANDS WORD 19P (S) E Rhodes 7-12-0	J Jukes (7)	–
13	25-4	ALPINE SONG 26P (S) Miss V Stephens 11-11-9	Miss V Stephens (7)	–
14	PP/P	PAID ELATION 9 N Mitchell 11-11-9	J Wingfield Digby (7)	–
15	413/	PRECIS 1058 (S) O Carter 8-11-8	I Dowrick (7)	–

9-2 Carrigeen Lad, 5-1 Still In Business, 6-1 Four Rivers, 8-1 Oaklands Word, Bang On Target, 10-1 Drewitts Dancer, 14-1 others

4.50 QUANTOCK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,952: 2m) (8)

1	312F	BIG STRAND 22 (D,BF,S,S) M Pipe 7-12-6	D Bridgwater	88
2	5404	TEEN JAY 8 (V,D,F,S,S) R Stronge 6-11-8	R Stronge	97
3	5621	SAINT CIEL 27 (D,B,S) F Jordan 8-11-3	J Lodder	98
4	2FU5	HAWAIIAN SAM 22 (D,S) A Turnell 6-11-0	C Rae (7)	97
5	2-43	JOSIFINA 112 (F) M McCormack 5-10-9	A Thornton	86
6	2112	MANOLETE 14 (D,BF,G,S) Mrs M Jones 5-10-8	D Byrne	86
7	551	FAUSTINO 14 (CD,F) P Hobbs 4-10-6	A P McCoy	98
8	3430	CRACKING PROSPECT 19 B Mirfman 5-10-0	D Salter (5)	89

5-2 Saint Ciel, 4-1 Big Strand, 5-1 Josifina, Manolete, 6-1 Faustino, Hawaiian Sam, 7-1 others.

5.20 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,448: 2m) (18)

1		AERION G Sherwood 5-11-6	J Osborne
2		CROCKMANDHILL K Bridgwater 5-11-6	W Marston
3		DASHANTI D Nicholson 5-11-6	R Massery (5)
4	54	FRANK NAYLAR 35 R Buckler 5-11-6	Mr B Dixon (7)
5	623	LORD MILLS 19 N Chance 5-11-6	R Johnson (3)
6		SIERRA NEVADA P Nicholls 5-11-6	M Griffiths (7)
7	3	WARRIER FOR PLAYERS 26 P Hobbs 5-11-6	A P McCoy
8		WELSH LOOT S Sherwood 5-11-6	S Curran (3)
9	2	DI'S LAST 108 M Pipe 5-11-1	D Bridgwater
10		PENGUIN R Alner 5-11-1	Mr J Culloty (5)
11		VITA NUOVA L Cottrell 5-11-1	Mr M Bonnors
12		ALL S

Family trials encourage Cook to overcome the odds



On the opening day of the new Flat season, **Richard Evans** meets a female rider with high aspirations

Seven years after an horrific fall at Doncaster racecourse prematurely ended the riding career of her father, Aimee Cook is hoping the traditional starting point for a new turf Flat season can signal the fulfilment of dreams to break the mould and become a top jockey.

As the starting stalls burst open at Town Moor this afternoon, the young rider still remembers vividly the moment in 1989 when her heart sank as she discovered how Paul Cook had suffered multiple injuries at Doncaster when Madraco trod in a deep hole and fell. She remembers his long battle to gain compensation; the demoralising effect on the family and her mother's desperate wish for her not to follow in his footsteps.

If anything the experience has made the 21-year-old even more determined to succeed in a world where her skills alone are not sufficient. If her dreams are to become reality, her sex means she must also overcome the deep prejudice against women which exists on racing's workshop floor.

"I never really speak to people about this because they will just go 'yeah, yeah', but in my mind I would like one day to be riding ten horses a day mid-summer when there are two meetings; nice, class horses and I would like to ride in group races. I would love to be the first woman to ride in the Derby, in the Guineas or in another classic."

Articulate, intelligent, and recently returned from a working holiday in the United States, where Julie Krone has shown what female jockeys can achieve, Cook was in full flow before harsh reality struck home. "I'm not sure a woman has ridden in a group race in England."

The mountain to be climbed is enormous and Cook knows it, but the manner in which she has punched home 11 winners from only 63 rides has convinced Lord Huntingdon, to whose yard she is attached, and others the potential ability is there. Apart from looking the part, she possesses a racing brain.

"It is extremely hard to get rides. Some people like Mark Usher were very good to me last year, but all too often if there is a spare ride going people's attitude is that they want a lad. The prejudice is very much there, whereas in the US if you can ride a horse and show you have the ability and understanding that is all that matters; you are not made to feel unwelcome.

"I am not a feminist and I would never try to say I am as strong as a lad because I am not built like a man. But I have ridden winners and if I am on a horse that can do it, I have got every bit as much determination to get it over the line as anyone else — and there are a lot more ways to do it other than just pure strength.

"I can't bear the thought of being just someone else in racing. I want to be good. I don't know whether my ability will be sufficient, but all I want is a chance. If you are given a chance and you don't take it or grab it, or you are not good enough, that's fair enough: you've had a go. But if you are never given a chance to prove yourself then that is rather sad."

After attending an all-girls' school in Newbury, where she obtained seven GCSEs, the male-dominated world of racing was something of a culture shock. Now she admits to being far tougher, giving as good as she gets. And if there is ever a doubt in her mind, they are soon dispelled by a quick re-read of Julie Krone's biography.

"I saw her both times I have been to the US and she is an inspiration. We rode work together and little things she told me were so helpful. She is so natural on a horse. Not even Frankie [Dettori] can impress me like she can on a horse. Trainers will put her on the toughest horse in their barn, which no-one else can ride, and she will ride it off the buckle end and after a furlong it will be like a little lamb with her."

The Derby and the other classics may be the long-term goal. This year, her ambitions are to land the necessary nine winners to lose her 7lb claim and to ride for the Queen. In the meantime, she is planning to splash out several hundred pounds on an Equicizer (mechanical horse), which she can use at home to hone her technique. "I can't really afford it, but I look upon it more as an investment."

If the fates are kind, and few would begrudge the latest Cook jockey a slice of good fortune, the dividends could be considerable in the years ahead.

JULIAN HERBERT



Cook sought Julie Krone's advice on a recent working holiday in the United States

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.35 Cuango
2.05 Sea God
2.35 Muchea
3.05 Nwaamis
3.40 Miss Bigwig
4.10 JACKSON HILL (nap)
4.40 Aerleon Jane

Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 PRINCELY SOUND (nap). 4.10 Quality.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.35 RACING CHANNEL APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£3,027: 1m 4f) (21 runners)

101 (5) 324060- ARTIC COURIER 138 (B,D,F) (Briam Promotions) D Cosgrove 5-10-0 D R McCabe 82
102 (19) 25519/0 MUCH SOUGHT AFTER 75 (D,G,S) (The MSA Pixes) K Burke 7-9-12 T Ashley (5) –
103 (20) 142603- VAUGRENIER 142 (D,F) (I Tweedies) R Hannon 4-9-12 .. . Dane O'Neill (3) 97
104 (3) 142/000- GOLDEN ARROW 12J (D,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-9-11 ..... C Scudder (5) –
105 (14) 134353 TARTAN GEM 5 (D,G) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-9 ..... J Dennis (5) 80
106 (21) 340/200- EIGHT SHARP 12J (S) (The Gemini Pixes 3) M Hammond 4-9-9 L Newton (3) 83
107 (13) 16044-6 CHATHAM ISLAND 15 (CD,F,G) (B Vcat) C Brittain 8-9-6 ..... M Henry (3) 90
108 (9) 032132- EDAN HEIGHTS 149 (D,St) (T Mountain) S Dow 4-9-6 ..... A Daly (5) 87
109 (16) 0/62220- ADVANCE EAST 172 (P Locke) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-4 ..... Claire West (7) 83
110 (10) 5-26120 MENTALASANYTHIN 15 (D,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-0..... Angela Gallimore (5) 96
111 (2) 01-4225 ALMUHTARAM 30 (B,F,G) (A Al-Midani) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-12... A Whelan 89
112 (1) 05/0000- SARAWAT 299 (C,D,F,G) (S Aitken) D Nicholls 8-8-10 ..... Oliver Casey (5) –
113 (8) 002233- OAKBURY 13J (Townsvile C C Racing Club) Miss L Siddall 4-8-10 T Siddall (7) 83
114 (11) 33366-0 MASTER OFTHE HOUSE 10J (S,S) (Allerton RC) M Hammond 10-8-9 D Hayden (7) 87
115 (18) 404225- CURTELACE 157 (F) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-6 ..... G Parkin (5) 85
116 (6) 5-13152 CUANGO 7 (D,F,G,S) (Barouche Stud Ltd) R Hollinshead 5-8-6 ... F Lynch (5) 97
117 (4) 000/03- ROCK GROUP 236 (Exdreon) J Pearce 4-8-3..... S Drowne 82
118 (17) 561-611 PREMIER DANCE 36 (D,F,G) (J Fox and Sons) D Haydn Jones 9-7-12 A Bond (5) BF
119 (12) 40524-0 OUTSTAYED WELCOME 63 (D,F) (Mrs B Bell) M Haynes 4-7-11.... D Wright 83
120 (7) 0000-2 HAYA YA KEFAAH 43 (A Craddock) N Babbage 4-7-10..... R Fitench (7) 87
121 (15) 000/30- SIAN WYN 264J (D & D Robinson) K Burke 6-7-10 Miss Laura Parkinson (7) –

Long handicap: Haya Ya kalaah 6-9, San Wyn 6-6

BETTING: 7-1 Cuango, 8-1 Chatham Island, 10-1 Vaugranier, Golden Arrow, Sasawat, Artic Courier, 12-1 others.

1995: ACHILLES HEEL 4-7-2 M Bard (20-1) C Allen 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

VAUGRENIER ½l 3rd to Hand Woven in handicap at Redcar (1m 3f, firm). EDAN HEIGHTS ½l 2nd to Lovely Lyca in rated stakes at Leicester (1m 4f, firm). ADVANCE EAST 1l 2nd to Dont Shoot Fannes in handicap at Pontefract (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start. MENTALASANYTHIN ½l 2nd to Greenspan in handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m 4f). CUANGO head 2nd of 9 to El Volador in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f). PREMIER DANCE beat Nordic Sun ¾l in apprentices handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f). Selection: CUANGO (nap)

2.05 FAUCETS FOR MIRA/RADA DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL SHOWER EQUIPMENT LADIES HANDICAP (£3,964: 1m 2f 60yd) (28 runners)

201 (21) 000120- FAIRY KNIGHT 110 (D,F) (P & S Laver Pixes) R Hannon 4-11-7 Mrs K Tierney (5) 87
202 (17) 003024- WESTERN GENERAL 69J (G,S) (J Gordon) Miss M Millingen 5-11-5 Miss Y Haynes 82
203 (16) 053650- HAZARD A GUESS 103J (CD,F,G,S) (Consultco) D Nicholls 5-11-0 Mrs A Perrett 84
204 (26) 3104-25 SEVENTEENS LUCKY 84 (G) (D Cameron) Bob Jones 4-10-11 Miss D J Jones (5) 88
205 (9) 305-324 SILKTAIL 7 (BF,F) (G Kelleway RC) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-10 Miss S Kelleway (5) 83
206 (15) 100002- CARLITO BRIGANTE 166 (CD,F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-7 Miss E Ramsden (5) 88
207 (14) 4064-00 TALENTED TING 68 (D,F,G) (M Wickens) P Haslam 7-10-7.. Mrs D Kardowski 84
208 (24) 213300- COUREUR 15J (F,G) (M Hammond) M Hammond 7-10-6 .. Miss P Robson 88
209 (8) 031000- WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 75J (G,S) (E Houghton) J Moore 4-10-3 Mrs S Moore (5) 85
210 (22) 010400- KING CURAN 17J (B,D,F,G,S) A Bailey 5-10-2 ..... Miss B Galebouse (5) 81
211 (6) 001800- GROOMS GOLD 21J (D,F) (Mrs J Coward) P Hobbs 4-10-1 . Mrs S Hobbs 87
212 (27) 4/54-6 RIVAL QUEEN 31 (Wetherby RB Ltd) M Hammond 4-10-1 . Miss M Carson (5) –
213 (28) 014110 CLAQUE 15 (B,G) (M Hill) D Chapman 4-10-1 ..... Miss R Clark 93
214 (19) 33-2223 CALDER KING 15 (V,F,S) (D Charlson) J Eyre 5-9-13 ..... Miss Diana Jones BF
215 (10) 315310- PRINCESS DANIELLE 146 (D,F,S) C C Elsey 4-9-12 ..... Mrs S Bosley 88
216 (18) 03/000- SILVER SAMURAI 330 (D,F,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 7-9-10.... Mrs C Williams (5) –
217 (1) 500300- ROSEATE LODGE 174 (F,G) (J Firth) S Kettlewell 10-9-9.... Miss E Doyle (5) 81
218 (7) 022-065 MANFUL 38 (B,F) (C Barber-Loman) W Elsey 4-9-9 ..... Miss A Elsey 92
219 (23) 0141-35 STALLED 68 (F,G,S) (Mrs P Walwyn) P Walwyn 6-9-9 Marchioness Blandford (5) 92
220 (5) 0/000024- GALLARDINI 51J (D,G,S) (S Hudson) B Rothwell 7-9-7 ..... Miss J Allison 80
221 (13) 00/4590 BALLYRAS 18 (S) (J Parsons) R Fahey 5-9-5 ..... Miss Alex McCabe (5) 93
222 (20) 4-03453 DREAM CARRIER 7 (F,G) (R Peacock) R Peacock 8-8-5.... Mrs C Peacock (5) 91
223 (4) 524165 SEA GOD 3 (G) (Mrs B Ward) M Chapman 5-9-3 ..... Mrs D McHale (5) 89
224 (2) 060500 EAST BARNS 19 (B,D,F,G,S) (Northern B'stock) S Gollings 8-9-1 Mrs J Gollings (5) 80
225 (11) 02152-0 LADY SABINA 56 (D,S) (W Musson) W Musson 5-8-6 ..... Miss K Wright (5) 80
226 (25) 60-2046 CAPTAIN MARMALADE 12 (V,D,G) (Mrs A Thorn) D Thom 7-9-0 Miss E Joyce (5) 82
227 (12) 203132 DON'T DROP BOMBS 7 (V,D,F,G) (Miss J Feilden) D Thom 7-9-0 Miss J Feilden 89
228 (3) 504506- BALI TENDER 16J (T Hughes) M W Easterby 5-8-0 ..... Mrs S Hardy (5) 69

Long handicap: Lady Sabina 8-12, Captain Marmalade 8-11, Don't Drop Bombs 8-6, Bali Tender 8-0

BETTING: 8-1 Carlito Brigante, 10-1 Calder King, Hazard A Guess, 12-1 Fairy Knight, Talented Ting, 14-1 others.

1995: CHILDREN'S CHOICE 4-9-11 Mrs D Kettlewell (25-1) P McBride 27 ran

FORM FOCUS

HAZARD A GUESS about 2½l 5th of 16 to Lucayan Sunshine in handicap at Haydock (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start. SEVENTEENS LUCKY best effort last season, beat CARLITO BRIGANTE (3lb better off) 1l in 25-runner handicap at York (1m 1l, good) with COUREUR (5lb better off) 8¼l 10th. CALDER KING 1l 3rd of 11 to River Keen in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f) with CLAQUE (12lb worse off) 3¼l 10th. Selection: SEVENTEENS LUCKY

2.35 CONSTANT SECURITY BROCKLESBY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,710: 5f) (7 runners) C4

301 (4) FREDRIK THE FIERCE (C Dwiers) J Berry 8-11 ..... J Carroll –
302 (7) INDIAN SPARK (F Brady) W G M Turner 8-11 ..... T Spraka –
303 (3) JOINT VENTURE (Mrs B Bell) B Meehan 8-11 ..... M Tebbutt –
304 (5) MR FORTYWINKS (Miss N Cassidy) J Eyre 8-11 ..... R Lappin –
305 (6) M T VESSEL (Morton Thornton & Company) J Jenkins 8-11 ..... L Dettori –
306 (1) MUCHEA (Albion Investments) M Channon 8-11..... R Hughes –
307 (2) MUJOVA (J Graham) R Hollinshead 8-11 ..... K Darley –

BETTING: 2-1 Fredrik The Fierce, 3-1 Muchea, 6-1 Mujova, M T Vessel, 7-1 Indian Spark, 8-1 Joint Venture, Mr Fortywinks.

1995: WORLD PREMIER 8-11 M Rimmer (9-4 fav) C Brittain 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FREDERICK THE FIERCE (foaled Apr 21). Half-brother by Puissance to modest 5f juvenile winners Doubleyoubesy and Local Heroine; dam 5f juvenile winner. INDIAN SPARK (foaled Apr 26). Half-brother by Indian Ridge to 6f-1m 2f and hurdles winner Express Gift, dam of little account. JOINT VENTURE (foaled Apr 5). First foal, by Common Grounds; dam modest performer in Ireland. MR FORTYWINKS (Feb 22). First foal, by Fools Holme; dam poor middle-distance maiden. M T VESSEL (foaled Mar 10). Half-brother by Risk Me to modest juvenile 5f winner Stormy Heights; dam 5f selling winner. MUCHEA (foaled Apr 16). Half-brother by Shalford to several winners including juvenile 5f winner Rain Splash; dam placed over 6f-1m in modest company. MUJOVA (foaled Mar 22). Half-brother by Mujadil to several winners including German juvenile winner Kaprisky; dam, half-sister to smart sprinter Governor General, modest maiden. No selection

3.05 STONES BITTER DONCASTER MILE (Listed race: £12,206: 1m rnd) (7 runners) C4

401 (5) 531000- SAND ON THE RUN 110 (CD,F,G,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 9-8-12... L Dettori 83
402 (6) 210264- CADEAUX TRYST 161 (F,G) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-12 Pat Eddery 91
403 (7) 132452- FIRST ISLAND 145 (CD,F,G) (Mellon Racing) G Wragg 4-8-12..... M Hills 91
404 (1) 1/350- NWAAMIS 305 (S) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-8-12..... W Carson BF
405 (2) 03/6111- PENNY DROPS 172 (D,S,S) (S Sharp) Lord Huntingdon 7-8-12 D Harrison 91
406 (3) 0-14253 STAR TALENT 23 (S,S) (Miss J Crowley) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-12 R Cochrane 83
407 (4) 1/55413- WIJARA 180 (S,S) (M Sukaiti) R Hannon 4-8-12 ..... J Reid 91

BETTING: 5-4 Nwaamis, 4-1 Wijara, 5-1 First Island, 6-1 Penny Drops, 8-1 Cadeaux Tryst, 14-1 Sand On The Run, 25-1 Star Talent.

1995: AIRPORT 4-8-12 J Carroll (12-1) J Gosden 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

SAND ON THE RUN best effort last season, beat Scrraben ½l in 18-runner handicap over course and distance (good to soft). CADEAUX TRYST 3¼l 4th of 9 to Bal Harbour in conditions race at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). FIRST ISLAND short-head 2nd of 7 to Celestial Key in listed race at Newmarket (7m, good to firm). NWAAMIS about 5l 5th of 11 to Penneksamp in group I Madagans 2000 Guineas at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) on penultimate start. PENNY DROPS beat Mandarina neck in 9-runner listed race at San Siro (1m, good to soft). STAR TALENT 2l 3rd of 6 to Masoun to chicmar at Lingfield (AW, 7f). WIJARA 2¼l 3rd of 8 to Restructure in listed race at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to soft). Previously beat Clan Ben 3l in conditions race at Newbury (1m 1f, good to soft) with FIRST ISLAND (1lb worse off) 2¼l 4th. Selection: NWAAMIS

3.40 MITSUBISHI DIAMOND VISION HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £6,108: 5f) (18 runners) C4

501 (17) 31124- PASSION FOR LIFE 268 (D,F,G) (D Waters) G Lewis 9-7 ..... Pat Eddery 87
502 (10) 354031- POLLY GOLIGHTLY 139 (B,CD,F,G) (D Sykes) M Blanshard 9-4..... K Darley 85
503 (14) 6611-11 KRYSTAL MAX 33 (D,F,G) (Saddell Nurseries) T Barron 9-2 . Kimberley Hart (7) 94
504 (18) 516214- MISS BIGWIG 172 (D,F,S) (Bigwigs Entertainments) J Berry 9-0 P Roberts (5) 97
505 (15) 331000- RAMSEY HOPE 169 (F) (C Barber-Loman) C Fairhurst 9-0 ..... N Kennedy 90
506 (1) 160304- IMP EXPRESS 150 (D,F,G) (E Stevenson) G Moore 8-13 ..... J Weaver 89
507 (13) 231023- WELSH MOUNTAIN 206 (D,F) (F Stansbury) M Heaton-Ellis 8-12 S Drowne (3) 89
508 (12) 3254- MARJORIE ROSE 257 (Linacre Ltd) A Bailey 8-11 ..... D Wright (3) 85
509 (2) 0051-40 JOHAYRO 7 (B,D,F) (F Brady) W G M Turner 8-11 ..... C Adamson (5) 92
510 (3) 1103/54- LITTLE NOGGINS 140 (D,F) (M Hall) C Dwyer 8-11 ..... J Stack (3) 94
511 (9) 338205- U-NO-HARRY 146 (D,F) (D Coppenhall) R Hollinshead 8-8..... F Lynch (5) BF
512 (16) 420-141 PRINCELY SOUND 26 (D,G) (G Bybee) M Bell 8-6 ..... M Fenton BF
513 (11) 600-011 CHEMCAST 54 (D,F,S) (B Cassidy) D Nicholls 8-3 ..... J Dalton 91
514 (8) 0036- ED'S FOLLY 162 (F Dawes) S Dow 8-3 ..... A Daly (5) 89
515 (5) 63513- SECRET VOUCHER 189 (D,F) (I Bose) B Middleton 8-2 ..... L Newton (5) 84
516 (4) 343220- AMY LEIGH 146 (D,G) (J Hadong) J Wilson 8-2 ..... G Carter 98
517 (8) 466026- LADY CAROLINE LAMB 140 (D,F) (W Ponsonby) M Channon 7-10 A Gorman 95
518 (7) 56100- OPENING CHORUS 171 (D,G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 7-10 ..... L Charnock 98

BETTING: 7-2 Princely Sound, 8-1 Miss Bigwig, Passion For Life, 9-1 Amy Leigh, Little Noggins, 10-1 Chemcast, Krystal Max, Opening Chorus, 16-1 Polly Golightly, Secret Voucher, Welsh Mountain, 20-1 Ed's Folly, Imp Express, Marjorie Rose, Ramsey Hope. 25-1 others.

1995: PORTEND 7-10 C Teague (10-1) S Bowring 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

PASSION FOR LIFE 5l 2nd of 6 to Ortolan in conditions race at Salisbury (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. POLLY GOLIGHTLY beat Music Gold short-head in 11-runner nursery over course and distance (good to firm). KRYSTAL MAX beat Mol Canard 3½l in 6-runner claimer at Lingfield (AW, 7f). MISS BIGWIG beat Marlara 2l in 7-runner nursery at Epsom (5f, good to soft) on penultimate start with CHEMCAST (7lb better off) 1¾l 7th. WELSH MOUNTAIN neck 2nd of 12 to Pleasure Time in nursery at Haydock (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start with KRYSTAL MAX (1lb worse off) ¾l 4th, MISS BIGWIG (1lb worse off) 2l 6th, U-NO-HARRY 2l 7th and IMP EXPRESS (1lb better off) 10l 11th. PRINCELY SOUND beat Sunset Harbour 2l in 7-runner handicap at Lingfield (AW, 5f) with JOHAYRO (3lb better off) 3½l 4th. CHEMCAST 1l 2nd (later awarded race) of 8 to Monkey Zanty in claimer at Lingfield (Aw, 5f). SECRET VOUCHER 2l 3rd of 17 to Swyncord Dream in nursery at Redcar (5f, good) with LADY CAROLINE LAMB (4lb better off) about 1¼l 6th and OPENING CHORUS (5lb better off) 1l 7th. AMY LEIGH 1½l 2nd of 7 to Daringaloo in conditions race at Catterick (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. Selection: KRYSTAL MAX

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 93

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — stopped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J 'jumps. F 'flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicappers's rating.

4.10 TRANSPENNINE EXPRESS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,175: 1m 2f 60yd) (19 runners) C4

601 (4) 5334-16 DIEGO 37 (D,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 9-7 ..... L Dettori 98
602 (6) 0124-21 QUALITY 19 (B,D,F,G) (H Yong) W O'Gorman 9-7 ..... Emma O'Gorman 90
603 (12) 61- JACKSON HILL 139 (C,F) (J Wattenscihn) R Charlton 9-4 ..... Pat Eddery 95
604 (9) 642211- ROMAN GOLD 122 (G) (G Teo) R Hannon 9-2 ..... R Hughes 94
605 (11) 533314- SAMBA 168 (BS) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-2 ..... W Carson 92
606 (19) 100121- WORLDWIDE ELSIE 129 (F,G) (T Dawson) R Harris 8-11 ..... A Mackay 92
607 (18) 054-5 EAGLE CANYON 21 (C Lane Jnr) B Hanbury 8-11 ..... J Stack (3) 90
608 (7) 505313- DEADLINE TIME 192 (S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 8-10 ..... K Darley 97
609 (3) 452641- ROSE OF SIBERIA 154 (D,F) (Mrs J Corbett) M Bell 8-8 ..... M Fenton 88
610 (15) 5-1 DOCKLANDS LIMO 30 (G) (Mrs L Utley) B McMahh 8-6 ..... R Cochrane 87
611 (17) 30404-0 EXACTLY 12 (F Thornton) J Eyre 8-5 ..... T Williams 91
612 (8) - 04-31 BURNT OFFERING 23 (D,G) (A Richards) C Brittain 8-3 ..... M Henry (5) 86
613 (2) 540634- WELCOME ROYALE 161 (Mrs G Smith) M Tompkins 8-2 ..... P Robinson 94
614 (13) 0263- SEDBERGH 176 (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 8-1 ..... L Charnock 86
615 (14) 43052-2 SIX CLERKS 40 (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 8-1 ..... J Quinn 91
616 (5) 311224 DANCING CAVALIER 19 (G) (The Three R's) R Hollinshead 8-1... F Lynch (5) 92
617 (16) 500- STRATEGIC PLOY 142 (Mrs H Carr) Mrs J Ramsden 8-0 ..... J F Egan –
618 (11) 114413 CHINA CASTLE 19 (D,BF,G) (J Dunn) P Haslam 7-13 ..... M Baird (5) BF
619 (10) 000- NORTHERN MOTTO 142 (Mrs A Bee) Mrs J Ramsden 7-10 ..... N Kennedy 90

BETTING: 3-1 Jackson Hill, 7-1 Roman Gold, 8-1 Deadline Time, Quality, 10-1 Rose Of Siberia, Samba, 12-1 China Castle, Dancing Cavalier, Strategic Ploy, 14-1 Worldwide Elsie, 16-1 Docklands Limo, 20-1 others.

1995: INDUSITOR 9-7 Pat Eddery (100-30 fav) J Gosden 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

QUALITY beat Barlok 5l in 6-runner conditions race at Lingfield (Aw, 1m 2f). JACKSON HILL beat Kerry Bling 1¼l in 17-runner maiden here (7f, good to firm) with DANCING CAVALIER (17lb better off) 1¾l 16th. ROMAN GOLD completed double, beat QUALITY (3lb worse off) 3l in 9-runner nursery at Southwell (AW, 1m) with SIX CLERKS (2lb better off) 6l 5th. SAMBA beat Cossordine ¾l in 15-runner nursery at Redcar (7f, good) on penultimate start. WORLDWIDE ELSIE beat Polar Spirit 12l in 6-runner nursery at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). DEADLINE TIME beat Maid For Baileys 3l in 19-runner nursery at Warwick (1m, good to soft) on penultimate start. ROSE OF SIBERIA beat Northern Soul 1¾l in 14-runner maiden stakes at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm). BURNT OFFERING beat Zuno Flyer 4l in 7-runner maiden at Lingfield (Aw, 1m 2f). WELCOME ROYALE 3¼l 3rd of 10 to Queens Insignia in nursery at Goodwood (1m, good) on penultimate start. CHINA CASTLE 4¼l 3rd of 7 to Nikita's Star in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f) with DANCING CAVALIER (10lb worse off) 1¼l 4th. Selection: ROMAN GOLD

4.40 MELTON WOOD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,078: 1m str) (16 runners)

1 (3) BOOZEROO (Mrs D Hanson) M Channon 9-0 ..... R Hughes –
2 (9) 5-P CATHERINE'S CHOICE 78 (Chequers Racing Club) J Bethell 9-0 . J Fortune –
3 (12) 04- COURTING DANGER 176 (Miss E Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 9-0 ..... M Fenton 74
4 (7) 0- FLORENTINO 187 (Lady Harrison) B Hills 9-0 ..... G Carter –
5 (13) FULL THROTTLE (Lady Nelson of Stafford) M Tompkins 9-0..... P Robinson –
6 (6) 0 GEORGIE BOY 28 (Mrs D Swinburn) C Dwyer 9-0 ..... W Woods –
7 (4) 35- INSIYABI 153 (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0 ..... W Carson 93
8 (10) LUCKY ARCHER (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0 ..... M Henry (5) –
9 (2) POLINESSO (Sheikh Mohammed) B Hills 9-0 ..... M Hills –
10 (15) SHOULDBEGREY (B Levy) W Muir 9-0 ..... J Reid –
11 (5) 0-0 TIROLS TYRANT 15 (Mrs M Mitchell) Mrs A Swinbank 9-0..... N Connorton 71
12 (11) 00- VILLAGE KING 138 (N Akamad) R Hannon 9-0 ..... Dane O'Neill (5) 83
13 (8) 2- AERLEON JANE 208 (P Locke) J Gosden 8-9 ..... L Dettori BF
14 (14) 5- CRYSTAL WARRIOR 156 (V Greaves) D Nicholls 8-9..... Alex Greaves 67
15 (11) 50- DUNSEON PRINCESS 160 (Classicstone Pixes) M Channon 8-9 Candy Morris 78
16 (16) 00- POLISH LADY 140 (D Hawes) W Barker 8-9 ..... L Charnock –

BETTING: 2-1 Aerleon Jane, 5-1 Polinesso, 10-1 Insiyabi, 12-1 Village King, Full Throttle, Florentino, 14-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

COURTING DANGER 8l 4th of 9 to Sylva Paradise in maiden at Folkestone (6f, soft). Previously 11l 7th of 25 to Sovereign's Crown in maiden at Newbury (6f, good to soft) with FLORENTINO 9l 22nd. INSIYABI 4l 5th of 21 to Germano in maiden at Haydock (7f, good to firm). TIROLS TYRANT 9l 9th to Even Top in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good) on penultimate start. VILLAGE KING 7l 7th of 23 to Shaamit in maiden over course and distance (good to firm). AERLEON JANE beat 2nd of 5 to Min Alfresco in maiden at Goodwood (7f, good to firm). CRYSTAL WARRIOR about 10l 5th to Ski For Gold in maiden at Chepstow (7f, soft). DUNSEON PRINCESS about 8¼l 5th to Last Second in maiden at Redcar (6f, good) on penultimate start. Selection: AERLEON JANE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Wragg	13	45	28.9	M Hills	24	136	17.6
D Haydn Jones	4	16	25.0	Pat Eddery	30	180	16.7
J Gosden	30	134	22.4	L Dettori	27	164	16.5
R Charlton	6	32	18.8	K Darley	31	211	14.7
B Hills	21	119	17.6	R Hughes	4	28	14.3
J Dunlop	16	104	15.4	W Carson	26	192	13.5

Princely Sound to take advantage of favourable draw

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: The betting market will offer clues here, but my best news concerns Indian Spark. Joint Venture and Muchea. The dogs have been barking about Indian Spark, an Indian Ridge colt, for some weeks and Bill Turner is likely to have him ready first time up.

Joint Venture, a son of Common Grounds, is well regarded in Brian Meehan's yard. But the choice is **Muchea**, Mick Channon's chosen runner from a trio of five-day possibilities. Channon likes this Shalford colt and has his string nicely forward.

3.05: Nwaamis is the clear form choice judged on his third in the Craven Stakes and fifth behind Pennekamp in the 2,000 Guineas last year. He subsequently disappointed in the Irish Guineas and was later found to have a problem with his pelvis. John Dunlop reports the Dayjur colt to have made a full recovery and he obviously has solid claims.

However, given the Arundel contender's short price and the possibility that he may be best over a slightly shorter trip, **First Island** appeals as a value alternative. A course and distance winner, the Geoff Wragg-trained colt is technically held by Wijara, but will be better suited by this mile and is open to further improvement.

Cadeaux Tryst, trained by Ed Dunlop, has been reportedly working well on the Newmarket gallops and is pitched in here rather than waiting for the Lincoln on Saturday.

3.40: I am particularly keen on the chances of the well-drawn **Princely Sound**. A combination of growing and sore shins during his two-year-old days meant he failed to shine last season, but the Michael Bell-trained sprinter has come into his own this year on the all-weather, showing plenty of speed and winning twice. He has been working with some decent horses at home and can oblige here. Polly Golighty and Secret Voucher are alternatives.

4.10: Early-season three-year-old handicaps, where most of the runners are trying a longer trip for the first time, are a nightmare and normally best avoided for betting purposes. A strict reading of the form book would point towards the chances of Roman Gold, who ended last term with two successes, Worldwide Elsie and Deadline Time.

However, there is every hope that **Jackson Hill** could be on an attractive mark in this handicap. Interestingly, his trainer, Roger Charlton, believes his string is more forward than usual this year after installing an all-weather gallop at Beckhampton, and his representative here still holds a Derby entry. The Priolo colt won a 17-runner maiden at Doncaster in taking style last November and the booking of Pat Eddery increases confidence.

RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PRINCELY SOUND
(3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: Jackson Hill
(4.10 Doncaster)

Rethink on Rough Quest

ROUGH QUEST may after all run in the Martell Grand National a week on Saturday. The gelding was initially ruled out of the race after finishing second to Imperial Call in the Gold Cup last week, but may now take his chance at Aintree.

He has been reinstated as 4-1 favourite by Ladbrokes for Aintree, in which he has been allocated just 9st 12lb.

"We are now considering the Grand National for Rough Quest," his trainer, Terry Casey, said yesterday.

"I cantered him yesterday and he felt really well and in great form. So I phoned his owner, Andrew Wates, in the evening and he came down and cantered him this morning.

"We then had a discussion and have made a joint decision to consider the National. We will make a final decision at the weekend and not keep people hanging on."

The Irish National had been the originally announced target for Rough Quest but Casey said: "The Grand National looks a very good opportunity for him. He will have lumps of weight in the Irish National and he is better going left-handed."

Casey is confident that regular jockey Mick Fitzgerald will be able to resume his partnership with Rough Quest at Aintree.

Ladbrokes bet: 4-1 Rough Quest, 10-1 Deep Bramble, Young Hustler, 12-1 Son Of War, Wylde Hide, Dextira Dove, 14-1 bar.

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

2.25 Script. 2.55 Oh So Handy. 3.25 Classic Image. 4.00 Star Of David. 4.30 Miss Fern. 5.00 Wiltoski.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.55 NATHIR.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.25 PEASE POTTAGE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,406: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1 3336 SCRIPT 10 (F) J Jenkins 5-11-9 ..... G Bradley
2 5P CHIEFTAIN'S CROWN 131 Miss K George 5-11-3 M A Fitzgerald
3 3 EASY BREEZY 34 D Sherwood 6-11-3 ..... J A McCarthy
4 3586 JOJO 57 D Grissell 6-11-3 ..... J R Kavanagh
5 U030 NAUTICAL GEORGE 12 J Upson 6-11-3 ..... R Supple
6 00 THE BAY BOMBER 19 T Clement 6-11-3 ..... J McLaughlin
7 82 JUST-MANA-MOU 10 (B) W G M Turner 4-10-9 ..... R Greene
8 0 SILLY POINT 24 P Butler 4-10-3 ..... T J Murphy (3)

5-4 Easy Breezy, 4-1 Just-Mana-Mou, 5-1 Script, Nautical George, 6-1 Jojo, 33-1 Chieftain's Crown, Silly Point, 50-1 others.

2.55 CUCKFIELD HANDICAP CHASE (£2,938: 2m 5f) (8)

1 -464 LITTLE TOM 99 (CD,F,G,S) J King 11-11-10 ..... T Jenks
2 2P45 RAGLAN ROAD 8 (D,F,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 12-11-7 ..... J Ryan
3 F1P- BLACK CHURCH 394 (C,F) R Rowe 10-11-5 ..... D O'Sullivan
4 5821 NATHIR 5 (C,S) P Butler 10-10-10 ..... T J Murphy (3)
5 22U3 OH SO HANDY 37F (B,CD,F) R Curtis 8-10-8 ..... M A Fitzgerald
6 4013 MIRAGE DANCER 5 (D,F,S) Mrs C Caroe 13-10-1 ..... I Lawrence
7 5/P LE DENSTAN 25 P Hedger 9-10-0 ..... J R Kavanagh
8 0240 RHOMAN FUN 14 (G) R Buckler 7-10-0..... Mr R Thornton (7)

11-4 Nathir, 7-2 Little Tom, 4-1 Mirage Dancer, 5-1 Black Church, 6-1 Raglan Road, Oh So Handy, 25-1

European league relegated by Beckenbauer



David Miller says opposition by Bayern Munich's president can sink a controversial plan

Bayern Munich may have confirmed, in a devastating Uefa Cup quarter-final victory over Nottingham Forest on Tuesday night, their position as one of Europe's foremost clubs. Yet Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern president, has trodden dismissively on any idea of an extended, full-time European league.

"A European league simply would not, could not work," Beckenbauer said as Bayern flew home yesterday, hoping to reimpose on the *Bundesliga*, in which they have slipped to second place, the scintillating form displayed on Tuesday night. "The idea is fantastic, but it would hurt domestic football too much, so much as to make it impossible."

His opposition effectively torpedoes the ambitions of Silvio Berlusconi, the president of AC Milan, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, and others.

Beckenbauer's opinion is, in effect, as destructive as the goals from Klinsmann (two), Ziege, Strunz and Papin that flooded past Forest in a humbling 5-1 second-leg defeat at the City Ground. As Bayern's luminary when they won three consecutive European Cups in the Seventies and the only man to both captain and manage winning World Cup teams, Beckenbauer's opinion carries weight within the ranks of Uefa, the European governing body of football, though he has no formal position within the DFB, the national federation. When he speaks, others listen.

"If you were to remove, say, Bayern and Borussia Dortmund, our two biggest clubs, from the *Bundesliga*, you would kill our competition. German crowds want to see the best German teams, never mind where they live. And I am sure that is the same in other countries such as England and Italy."

It is the unrealistic logistics of a European league that have obliged Beckenbauer to be involved in the recent controversial proposals, coming from Uefa, for further adaptation of the European Cup, embracing additional powerful clubs from the stronger nations. The intention, transparently, is to generate more financially rewarding matches.

Greed, expediency, howled the critics. Undemocratic, thundered Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, the world governing body, in *Fifa News* this month. "It is totally against the concept of international sport . . . inspired purely by economic or political motives," Blatter writes.

Beckenbauer attempts to introduce to the controversy a calm survey of present realities. This is a former player, remember, whose sportsmanship was ranked on a par with Pelé and Sir Bobby Charlton. "The debate has two aspects," Beckenbauer reasons. "Competition and finance. We cannot afford to ignore either. When the three European competitions began some 30 years ago they were sporting and fair. It was a perfect set-up. But, in the last decade, not only has finance become more significant, the European political map has changed. There are a dozen new countries.

"I know it is a controversial and delicate discussion. Yet I do not think it makes sense to have a Champions' Cup, in which, for example, the champion teams of Germany and England are randomly drawn against the champion teams of the smallest countries. In some years, the Uefa Cup, containing several of the top teams from each of the major national leagues, is the better competition. We have to try to find the best solution for the Champions' Cup, for sport *and* business."

Why is it not acceptable, Beckenbauer asks, for an additional team — say the second team in the previous national championship — to be included from leading leagues, when that team may well be the imminent national champion this season? The Cup Winners' Cup already accepts such "second teams", when the cup-winner is also the league champion and, therefore, competing in the Champions' Cup.



Beckenbauer: influential

Thomas Kurth, head of the Uefa competition department, elaborated on the proposals mooted by Beckenbauer and others. "The old system [of qualification] will only encourage breakaway by the top clubs," Kurth said. "So it is preferable that change takes place in-house. Whatever system we ultimately determine, as advocated by the members, we will leave the door open for the champions of such countries as Azerbaijan to qualify by preliminary fixtures."

Kurth said that he did not see how Uefa could be overruled by Fifa. Other Continental confederations have competitions "more strangely structured than we are proposing".

The rationality of Beckenbauer's argument is little different from that in, say, the Davis Cup in tennis, with zonal qualifying; from the World Cup itself, in which dozens of Pacific islands play each other out of sight before the big boys get serious; or the FA Cup, in which the two senior divisions are exempt until the third round, long after Fiddling-in-the-Marsh FC have fallen by the way.

Maybe what is needed is merely a change of name. Why not the Helmut Schoen Cup, in honour of Germany's recently deceased manager of unparalleled achievement; a man who, when offered a free car by BMW, accepted a small, two-door model.

Beckenbauer, who says he has no ambition to become president of Fifa — as rumoured — is as fair-minded as Schoen was. He believes the recent Bosman ruling by the European Court to be totally correct — "twenty years overdue" — even though Bayern have £50 million worth of players at risk at the end of contract. He is unworried by the prospect of "foreign invasion". German crowds, Beckenbauer says, will not accept teams that are not predominantly German.

To replace the lost benefit of transfer fees, so as to assist the survival of small clubs, he says that Uefa must initiate a formula of subsidies from the rich, so as to sustain the production of young players. All avenues should be open, Beckenbauer argues, for both rich and poor.

IN BRIEF

England's plans hit by injury to Hazlitt

SIMON HAZLITT has pulled out of the England hockey team for the match against India at Milton Keynes on Sunday because of hamstring trouble (Sydney Friskin writes). The injury also ruled him out of the Army team in the Services championship, which began at Aldershot yesterday.

The Army, attempting to regain the title won last year by the Royal Air Force, had no problems defeating the Royal Navy 3-0. They scored twice in the closing minutes of the first half, through Fordham and Boyce, and added the third goal early in the second half when Boxell converted a short corner.

May banned

Weightlifting: Peter May, Britain's leading male weightlifter at the world championships in China last November, has been banned for life after testing positive for clenbuterol, an anabolic agent. The announcement ends any chance of May competing in the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

May, 29, from Enfield, twice a Commonwealth Games silver medal-winner as a mid-heavyweight, was among ten weightlifters found to have taken a performance-enhancing substance in China.

Bell on the up

Skiing: Graham Bell won the British junior downhill title at the British Land British national ski championships in Tignes, France, yesterday. At 30, Bell is well beyond the junior age limit but senior skiers are allowed to enter to improve their world ranking points. Bell achieved that, finishing 1.79sec ahead of Andrew Freshwater.

Feud criticised

Cycling: The Sports Council yesterday wrote to Tony Doyle, the former world champion and president of the British Cycling Federation, and Colin Clews, the body's acting chairman of the board of directors, saying that it was "appalled" by the behaviour of both parties in their long-running feud.

Old rivals meet

Bowls: Scotland play England, the holders, for the women's home international team championship at Llanelli today after beating Wales 120-117 in a tense finish. England overwhelmed Ireland by 77 shots.

Walker on air

Motor sport: The BBC motor racing commentator, Murray Walker, will remain on the air after ITV takes over grand prix coverage next year. The Corporation yesterday extended its coverage of the Auto Trader Touring Car Championship to the end of the millennium.

Tanner's job

Rowing: The Amateur Rowing Association yesterday announced the appointment of David Tanner as international rowing manager. He will replace Brian Armstrong, who will retire after the Olympics.

Seventh heaven

Rugby union: St Olave's, York, won a thrilling final to lift the preparatory schools seven-a-side title in the Rosslyn Park national schools competition yesterday, clinching their victory over Dragon School with a try in sudden-death extra time.

Easter bonus

Football Pools: Littlewoods is to run a coupon on Easter Monday (April 8) for the first time. Those who submit entries for the coupons of April 6 and April 8 will have automatic entry into a free prize draw.

Italian clubs lose grip on Uefa Cup

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ITALY awoke yesterday with a screaming hangover; even worse, one that no amount of thick, black espresso could erase or ease. If only it were that simple, but after the worst night Italian football had experienced in European competition in years, coffee was never going to be enough. Full-scale, national soul-searching was called for and the Italians did not let anybody down.

The sensational elimination of AC Milan and AS Roma in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday left no Italian teams in the semi-finals of the tournament for the first time since 1988. Indeed, only Ajax, in 1992, had interrupted an Italian scroll of winners since 1989, including Napoli, Juventus (twice), Internazionale (twice) and, last season, Parma. The Uefa Cup had become almost a third Italian domestic competition, a litmus test of the primacy of Italian club football in Europe. Italy was crestfallen.

"An awful night for Italian soccer," read a front page headline in *La Republica*, the Rome newspaper. It was by no means unique as the media tried to explain Milan's defeat by Bordeaux, a distinctly average French side, and Roma's demise at the hands of Slavia Prague, at home, before an expectant, exultant crowd at the Olympic stadium.

Milan were the first to fall. Leading 2-0 from the first leg, they lost 3-0 in the return against a team that qualified for Europe only through the InterToto Cup and are languishing in fourteenth place in the French league. Two second-half goals from Christophe Dugarry, after an early goal by Didier Tholot, were ample reward for Bordeaux, who outplayed their illustrious guests.

Even worse for Milan, George Weah, their world and European footballer of the year, broke his right arm; the international defender, Alessandro Costacurta, broke his nose; and the midfield player, Stefano Eranio, tore a muscle. They added to an injury list that already including Dejan Savicevic, Marco Simone and Zvonimir Boban.

Roma, meanwhile, were cursing their luck. Trailing 2-0 after the first leg, they levelled the aggregate score at 2-2 and, in extra time, seemed to be heading for victory when Moriero, with his second goal, put them 3-0 ahead on the night. Vavra then replied for Slavia and the Czechs went through to join Bayern Munich and Barcelona, victors over PSV Eindhoven, in the last four.

Nantes yesterday became the first team to reach the semi-finals of the European Cup when they drew 2-2 with Spartak Moscow in Russia, winning 4-2 on aggregate. Nikiforov scored twice in the first half to give Spartak hope of victory, but Ouedec then scored two goals of his own in the second half for the French.

Manchester City have been given clearance to use Michael Kavelashvili, the Georgia striker, in their battle to avoid relegation. Kavelashvili was granted a work permit yesterday and will make his debut against Bolton Wanderers on Saturday week.

City have agreed to pay Spartak Vladikavkaz £1.4 million for the striker after spotting him when they signed international team-mate Georgiou Kinkladze from Dynamo Tiblisi last summer.

☐ Fifa, football's world governing body, has ruled out any possibility of Japan and South Korea jointly hosting the 2002 World Cup finals, fuelling the growing rivalry between the two countries as they compete to stage the tournament. João Havelange, the Fifa president, responding to a request from the Asian Football Confederation president, Sultan Ahmad Shah, of Malaysia to consider the possibility, said it was against Fifa rules.

South Korea and Japan both sent in bids in September. Expert teams from Fifa visited both countries in November to inspect facilities and will draw up detailed reports which will be handed to Fifa's executive committee before it makes its decision on June 1.

Element of surprise missing in ice dance routine

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN EDMONTON

THE ice dance compulsories of the world championships pursued their expected pattern here, with most couples placed in the second exercise, a tango romantica, exactly where they were in the first, a silver samba. If the marks mean anything, it is that couples rarely skate above or below expectations.

There was a little movement lower down the order but not enough to dispel a general disenchantment. One judge not involved said: "We might as well all go home so far as the ice dance is concerned." It might be argued that things were perhaps even worse, when Torvill and Dean were in their pomp. They were the best by an appreciable distance between 1981 and 1984, but even they were judged on prestige rather than performance during the 1984 Olympics.

Edmonton results 45

They made a conspicuous mistake during their paso doble set dance yet one judge gave them two perfect marks.

If the cynics here are right, the gold medals will go to Oksana Grishchuk and Evgeny Platov, the silver to their Russian compatriots, Angelica Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov and the bronze to Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz.

There is a variation here from the Champions' Series final last month in Paris, where Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, the French champions, were third. But this is Edmonton and Bourne and Kraatz are the Canadian champions.

Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew, the British champions, finished fifteenth in the compulsories, a satisfactory result for their first attempt. Mandy Wetzel and Ingo Steuer, of Germany, defied the draw in the pairs short programme. Having to skate first is ordinarily a graveyard of hopes, since the judges have to be ready to make room for what may follow. But the Germans seem to be expert at the set exercises: first in the European championships in January, second in Paris and second in the world championships at Birmingham. They failed to win any of the free competitions and are now under threat from three Russian couples, including the European champions, Oksana Kazukova and Artur Dmitriev. They lie fourth in spite of a clattering fall from a triple toe loop on Kazukova's part and a drift in the side-by-side spin that almost caused a colision.

The British champions, Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred, seemed to have surmounted their problems, including a side-by-side triple toe loop, when Rogers fell going into a camel spin towards the end. It was such an unforeseeable mistake that she covered her face with her hands at the end to hide, not a flood of tears, but a huge grin. It was that laughable. Unfortunately it dropped them to sixteenth place — one better than a year ago.

MIKE BLAKE



Krylova, left, and Ovsiannikov, of Russia, strike a pose during the silver samba

Seles bows to injury and leaves path free for Graf

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT HAD been billed as the first showdown of the year between the outstanding players in tennis, the two women who are far superior to the best that the rest of the world can offer, but the Lipton Championships accepted yesterday that such a prospect was not to be. The first meeting of 1996 between Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, the world joint-No 1s, will have to wait until Seles has recovered from a shoulder injury.

Seles has withdrawn from the Lipton, which begins at Key Biscayne, Florida, today, complaining of a sore left shoulder. Graf, too, is not quite 100 per cent fit, but her ever-recurring back problem that resurfaced at Indian Wells, California, last week did not prevent her from winning there, in her first tournament of 1996. Encouragingly, however, she showed no lingering effects from the foot surgery she underwent in December.

The loss of Seles, the Australian Open champion, was good news for Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, who has been promoted to No 2 seed, ahead of Anke Huber, of Germany, and Gabriela Sabatini, of Argentina.

Thomas Muster leads the men's field as he struggles to retain his No 1 spot in the world rankings ahead of the European clay-court season, his favourite and most successful time of year — but he has a tough task. Nine of the world's top ten men and 17 of the top 20 are entered in the event, including Pete Sampras. Sampras needs to win to regain the top spot, unless Muster loses before the semi-finals.

Andre Agassi, the defending champion, will be trying to join Sampras and Ivan Lendl as the only players to win back-to-back titles at Key Biscayne. Ironically, Agassi reached the No 1 ranking for the first time with his victory over Sampras in the final last year.

The in-form player is Michael Chang, the No 4 seed, who won the Champions Cup at Indian Wells on Sunday.

ROSSLYN PARK SCHOOLS SEVENS

Junior tournament

Quarter-finals: Wallington 5 Reading 27; RGS High Wycombe 27 Dulwich 5; RGS Guildford 38 Berkhamsted 10; Judd 5 Bedford Modern 26. Semi-finals: Reading 0 RGS High Wycombe 29; RGS Guildford 26 Bedford Modern 0. Final: RGS High Wycombe 10 RGS Guildford 12.

Preparatory tournament

Group winners: The Oratory 14 St Aubyn's 0; Bromsgrove 7 The Downs 10; Port Regis 0 Dragon 5; Sherborne Prep 12 Caldicott 34; Edgarley Hall 14 Bedford JS 28; Holmewood House 19 Winchester House 12; Mowden Hall 17 Beechwood Park 12; Dulwich Prep 0 St Olave's, York 34. Quarter-finals: The Oratory 7 The Downs 29; Dragon 17 Caldicott 12; Bedford JS 15 Holmewood House 21; Mowden Hall 0 St Olave's, York 24. Semi-finals: The Downs 5 Dragon 10; Holmewood House 14 St Olave's, York 25. Final: Dragon 10 St Olave's, York 15.

Open tournament

Group A: Wirrall 0 Tiffin 38; Reigate 36 Broxbourne 17; Tiffin 19 Bassaleg 27; Wirrall 33 Broxbourne 19; Wirrall 0 Bassaleg 38, Tiffin 22 Reigate 33; Bassaleg 29 Broxbourne 19; Wirrall 14 Reigate 17; Bassaleg 33 Reigate 7; Tiffin 17 Broxbourne 12. Group winners: Bassaleg.

Group B: Adams GS 26 Newcastle-Under-Lyme 17; St Olave's 17 Verulam 5; Newcastle-Under-Lyme 15 Dr Challoners GS 31; Adams GS 12 Verulam 17; Adams GS 19 Dr Challoners GS 12; Newcastle-Under-Lyme w/o St Olave's; Dr Challoners GS 12 Verulam 7; Adams GS 5 St Olave's 34; Dr Challoners GS 12 St Olave's 10; Newcastle-Under-Lyme w/o Verulam. Group winners: St Olave's.

Group C: Rydal 31 Coopers Co 10; Shambrook 15 Gunnersbury 12; Coopers Co 7 King Edward VI, Nuneaton 12; Rydal 19 Gunnersbury 27; Rydal 17 King Edward VI, Nuneaton 19; Coopers Co 22 Shambrook 7; King Edward VI, Nuneaton 7 Gunnersbury 37, Rydal 7 Shambrook 7; King Edward VI, Nuneaton 5 Shambrook 31; Coopers Co 12 Gunnersbury 19. Group winners: Gunnersbury.

Group D: Stonyhurst 57 Bethany 5; Richmond Coll 17 De Aston 7; Bethany 24 Alon Taf 17; Stonyhurst 41 De Aston 7; Stonyhurst 45 Alon Taf 0; Bethany 19 Richmond Coll 15; Alon Taf 12 De Aston 31, Stonyhurst 50 Richmond Coll 0, Alon Taf 17 Richmond Coll 7; Bethany 5 De Aston 32. Group winners: Stonyhurst.

Group E: Ampleforth 12 Hymers 14; Eltham 17 Old Swinford Hospital 31; Hymers 17 Llandovery 10; Ampleforth 19 Old Swinford Hospital 21; Ampleforth 0 Llandovery 38; Hymers 60 Eltham 0; Llandovery 35 Old Swinford Hospital 7; Ampleforth 21 Eltham 28; Llandovery 55 Eltham 0; Hymers 43 Old Swinford Hospital 0. Group winners: Hymers.

Group F: St Edward's, Liverpool 26 Bishop Gore 17, Wimbledon Coll 38 Wallington 0; Bishop Gore 0 Chichester HS 48; St Edward's, Liverpool 24 Wallington 0; St Edward's, Liverpool 7 Chichester HS 24; Bishop Gore 0 Wimbledon Coll 43; Chichester HS 35 Wallington 0; St Edward's, Liverpool 5 Wimbledon Coll 35; Chichester HS 5 Wimbledon Coll 12; Bishop Gore 14 Wallington 21. Group winners: Wimbledon Coll

Group G: Arnold 26 Normanton Freeston 12; Millfield 40 RGS High Wycombe 0; Normanton Freeston 12 Llanharl 29; Arnold 26 RGS High Wycombe 12; Arnold 26 Llanharl 31; Normanton Freeston 5 Millfield 43; Llanharl 17 RGS High Wycombe 12; Arnold 0 Millfield 24; Llanharl 0 Millfield 22; Normanton Freeston 5 RGS High Wycombe 48. Group winners: Millfield.

Group H: St Bede's 24 Pant 26; Warwick 35 Emanuel 17; Pant 28 King's, Macclesfield 10; St Bede's 19 Emanuel 12; St Bede's 12 King's, Macclesfield 27; Pant 24 Warwick 42; King's, Macclesfield 22 Emanuel 14; St Bede's 0 Warwick 59; King's, Macclesfield 22 Warwick 7; Pant 24 Emanuel 17. Group winners: Warwick.

Group I: Birkenhead 14 Manchester GS 22; John Fisher 22 King Henry VIII, Coventry 19; Manchester GS 12 Brynteg 27; Birkenhead 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 26; Birkenhead 19 Brynteg 24; Manchester GS 5 John Fisher 36; Brynteg 29 King Henry VIII, Coventry 12; Birkenhead 0 John Fisher 42; Brynteg 14 John Fisher 14; Manchester GS 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 31. Group winners: John Fisher.

Group J: Solihull 27 John Cleveland 12; Judd 19 Hampton 27; John Cleveland 40 Caerleon 5; Solihull 7 Hampton 38; Solihull 10 Caerleon 15; John Cleveland 14 Judd 17; Caerleon 0 Hampton 42; Solihull 10 Judd 43; Caerleon 24 Judd 12; John Cleveland 0 Hampton 12. Group winners: Hampton.

Group K: RGS Guildford 21 Pocklington 21; Monmouth Comp 7 St Benedict's 26; Pocklington 17 Tasker Millward 5; RGS Guildford 17 St Benedict's 24; RGS Guildford 31 Tasker Millward 10; Pocklington 24 Monmouth Comp 17; Tasker Millward 0 St Benedict's 26; RGS Guildford 36 Monmouth Comp 5; Tasker Millward 0 Monmouth Comp 36; Pocklington 12 St Benedict's 10. Group winners: Pocklington.

Group L: Sedburgh 49 King Edward VI Morpeth 0; Latymer Upper 5 St Joseph's, Ipswich 52; King Edward VI Morpeth 5 Sir Thomas Picton 15; Sedburgh 17 St Joseph's, Ipswich 12; Sedburgh 37 Sir Thomas Picton 7; King Edward VI Morpeth 5 Latymer Upper 33; Sir Thomas Picton 7 St Joseph's, Ipswich 43; Sedburgh 66 Latymer Upper 0; Sir Thomas Picton 17 Latymer Upper 12; King Edward VI Morpeth 0 St Joseph's, Ipswich 81. Group winners: Sedburgh.

Group M: Silcoates 26 Nottingham HS 7; Chelsfhurst and Sidcup 14 Maidstone GS 33; Nottingham HS 7 Strode 39; Silcoates 42 Maidstone GS 12; Silcoates 22 Strode 0; Nottingham HS 17 Chislehurst and Sidcup 17; Strode 33 Maidstone GS 7; Silcoates 22 Chislehurst and Sidcup 10; Strode 15 Chislehurst and Sidcup 5; Nottingham HS 34 Maidstone GS 0. Group winners: Silcoates.

Group N: Dollar Academy 20 Merchant Taylor's 19; City of London Freemen 35 St Edmund's 5; Merchant Taylor's 5 Hawthorn 20; Dollar Academy 31 St Edmund's 12; Dollar Academy 5 Hawthorn 38; Merchant Taylor's 14 City of London Freemen 19; Hawthorn 19 St Edmund's 7; Dollar Academy 14 City of London Freemen 29; Hawthorn 24 City of London Freemen 7; Merchant Taylor's w/o St Edmund's. Group winners: Hawthorn

Group O: Durham 45 King Edward VII, Lytham 5; Gravesend GS 26 Queen Elizabeth's 7; King Edward VII, Lytham 7 Gisnlal 40; Durham 33 Queen Elizabeth's 5; Durham 12 Gisnlal 21; King Edward VII, Lytham 15 Gravesend GS 14; Gisnlal 31 Queen Elizabeth's 5; Durham 17 Gravesend GS 5, Gisnlal 38 Gravesend GS 5; King Edward VII, Lytham 24 Queen Elizabeth's 19. Group winners: Gisnlal.

Group P: Dartford GS 10 Mount St Mary's 31; St George's, Harpendan 12 London Oratory 17; Mount St Mary's 34 St Cyres 19; Dartford GS 0 London Oratory 17; Dartford GS 14 St Cyres 33; Mount St Mary's 36 St George's, Harpendan 0; St Cyres 24 London Oratory 12; Dartford GS 10 St George's, Harpendan 17; St Cyres 17 St George's, Harpendan 12; Mount St Mary's 38 London Oratory 0. Group winners: Mount St Mary's

Experience counts for Cardiff

Cardiff IHE..... 6
Loughborough Univ..... 3

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DARE one say that the traditional free-flowing game that is the hallmark of student rugby union gave way beneath the constricting hand of league rugby at Twickenham yesterday? Where, a year ago, Brunel University College and Swansea laid on a marvellous spectacle, the 1996 final of the British Universities Sports Association championship was as drab as the weather.

Cardiff Institute of Higher Education may disagree. This was their first appearance in the final, in what has been a hectic season. They stand to be promoted from the third division of the Heineken League, they have only just been knocked out of the Swalec Cup and now they have won the student title.

It was the degree of calm control, learned in league rugby, that kept them clear of Loughborough. Some 70 per cent of the game was played in the Welsh half, but Loughborough's control of the ball and choice of options was so poor that they could never press their advantage.

To their credit, Loughborough kept faith with the side which has served them well all season. Such notables as Jonathan Bell, the Ireland centre, Richard Jones and Ben Kay are in residence but all have chosen to play league rugby with, respectively, Northampton, Neath and Waterloo. Last term they beat both Oxford and Cambridge though en route to this final they lost to Sheffield Hallam whereas Cardiff's progress was unhindered.

Yet Loughborough could still have won had they opted to kick their goals and not conceded, late in the game, a reversed penalty. Twice in the first half they spurned kicks at goal, running ball which was subsequently turned over by the voracious Cardiff back row. Their over-reliance on Alan Buzza, the former England A stand-off half, and their Irish captain, Conor Davis, left Cardiff knowing where the game would be played and only in the dying moments did Nick Osman create some concern in Welsh ranks.

Cardiff were prodded forward by Darren Edwards, their scrum-half. Two penalties from that rugby rarity, a goal-kicking forward, won the match: James Savastano pumped over penalties from 39 and 24 metres after an early flurry of fisticuffs. Buzza responded before the interval but the second half was broken up by a stream of injuries and Cardiff's defence proved equal to anything Loughborough had to offer.

SCORERS: Cardiff IHE: Penalty goals: Savastano (2) Loughborough: Penalty goal: Buzza.

CARDIFF IHE: M Evans; J Dodd, G Eastment, R Sheppeard, G Stiff; G Vobe, D Edwards; J Evans (captain), R Campbell, A Millward, A Davies, S Martin, N Watkins, S Gardiner, J Savastano. Edwards replaced by M Sage (62min).

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY: S Jones; R O'Neill, N Propper, N Osman, N Miller; A Buzza, J Daniels; S Beaufoy, C Johnson, A Kelly, J Powell, G Webster, R White, C Davis (captain), R Winters. Beaufoy replaced by A Poole (30), Johnson replaced by D Nunn (45). Daniels replaced by C Leslie (69).

Referee: G Gadjovich (Canada).

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Warm welcome at the last resort for exercise junkies

There are times when you should beware of sport. It can take over your life. This week I have witnessed what happens to otherwise seemingly normal people when they are transported into an environment of total physical training.

Between now and April 21, you will see hundreds padding the streets, preparing their minds and bodies for the challenge of the Flora London Marathon, but if you think that they are obsessive, you should see what the real hard core get up to. Like birds, it seems, they migrate to escape the bitterness of the British climate, and head for the warm-weather training camp.

Picture a sports complex with the very best in international facilities — a full Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis, squash, basketball and badminton courts, football pitches, bikes of every size and specification, a state-of-the-art track and stadium, a windsurfing lagoon. Then place these lavish facilities in a climate where, even in the middle of March, the weather is as temperate as a British summer's day. Build your complex on an island where there are few counter-attractions to drag you away from the training facilities, and you have what may sound to some a dream — to others, a nightmare.

The training camp, which bills itself as the world's No 1 sports resort, is Club La Santa, on the island of Lanzarote. It is a dream for the full-time sportsman or woman. Here is the ring and the punchbag that Frank Bruno used to prepare for his ill-fated fight with Mike Tyson, there is the track that Linford Christie stalked before the Barcelona Olympics.

This week in the Canary Islands, Liz McColgan, the 10,000 metres world champion and Olympic silver medal-winner, has been fine-tuning for the London Marathon, flowing through sub-five-minute mile intervals on the track, while Eamonn Martin, winner of the London Marathon in 1993 on his debut over the distance, heads out into the volcanic hills, running step for step with his friend and rival, Jon Solly.

For the professional sportsman, the concept of a specialised training camp has much to commend it. This week, John Woodcock, the former cricket correspondent of *The Times*, has extolled the advantages of a warm-weather cricket academy. He says he has been converted by the Australian experience and reckons the way to solve England's bowling problems may be to set up a winter cricket school where the sun shines brightly. But for the amateur sportsman, with his or her eyes on finishing a marathon or heading off middle age, the luxury of unlimited time and facilities can bring its own problems. The first is the danger of overdosing on exercise.

Much has been written about

BRYANT'S EYE

the so-called addiction to exercise, and one theory has it that endorphines in the brain are released during strenuous activity, producing an effect very similar to opium. There is really no hard evidence for this, and it is more likely that exercise obsession is largely psychological.

Dr Ian Cockerill, a psychologist at Birmingham University's School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, believes that there are two forms of exercise addiction — negative and positive. "Positive addiction means that the individual cannot do without exercise, but it enhances the quality of their life," he said. "Negative addiction is when your life takes second place to exercise."

There is no way of testing for addiction to exercise, but if there were, then Club La Santa would be a good place to start. Here, veteran runners, dreaming of breaking three or four hours in the marathon, smile happily at the thought of giving over every waking hour to the pursuit of their dream. And they are not the worst.

First prize in the compulsive training stakes must go to triathletes. They run, they swim, they bike, they haunt the gymnasium. Their programme makes terrifying reading. When they do pause, which is rarely, it is to refuel or rub yet more oil on to their bodies or their bikes.

The marathon men at the camp show disturbingly similar signs of perpetual motion. There are plenty of them. This year more than 68,000 applied to run in the London Marathon. Flora, the new sponsor, says that it wants to bring awareness of the marathon into every kitchen, and it has ploughed £6 million into backing and publicising the race. Alan Storey, the race general manager, blanches at the thought of the extra applications this will bring. The marathon can handle only around 27,000 starters, and Storey has to sign the letters of rejection.

Some believe that rejecting a runner from the marathon is like banning a child from a playground. A pair of American psychiatrists, Samuel Perry and Michael Sacks, say that the real definition of sport is simply play — it is no more than a purposeless activity in a make-believe world. If it has any purpose, they say, it becomes not play, but work.

For the millions who take part in events such as the London Marathon, the real joy is that this make-believe world is open to all. These people are not full-time athletes, they are housewives, office workers, the young, the old, the executives, the unemployed. Training for them is a makeshift affair: snatched minutes and miles at lunchtimes, climbing the stairs instead of taking the lift at work. They raise their millions for charity and walk away clutching their medals and their memories to get on with the rest of their busy lives.

Daydreaming of which eight records they might choose to break if they were cast away on a desert island with an all-weather track might be fun. But an hour a day of those rainy British lunchtimes will probably get them round the marathon just as well.

JOHN BRYANT

Plans for Global League add to confusion

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HOPES of a settlement in the year-long legal battle between the Australian Rugby League (ARL) and the Super League were complicated yesterday by the unexpected emergence of a proposed third force. Disaffected players in Australia have formed a so-called Global League.

A difficult situation was rendered chaotic as the Global League announced its intention to kick off tomorrow week — the same date as the European Super League — featuring 311 players from the outlawed Super League in Australia.

It has the backing, although not the financial support, of the Rugby Football League (RFL) in England. If it takes place — and, as yet, it has no grounds or sponsorship, or a television deal — it will culminate in September in world play-off matches with the European Super League. This was the intention of the breakaway Super League in Australia before the establishment ARL got it banned until 2000.

Making the announcement, Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, expressed optimism that the Global League could circumvent the four-year ban on the Super League — an opinion not shared by the ARL. While Lindsay was spelling out the players' vision for the Global League, secret talks yesterday between ARL and Super League representatives edged nearer to agreement on the compromise package that the ARL had rejected on Tuesday.

Concensus on a world club championship this season, involving the four leading Australian and European Super League sides, apparently exists. This leaves the insistence that the two new Super League clubs, Adelaide Rams and Hunter Mariners, take part in the ARL competition that starts tomorrow, as the ARL's main bone of contention.

Although compromise is back on the agenda, the situation remains highly volatile. The ARL expects the eight rebel Super League clubs to comply with court orders to field teams in its competition. However, without any recognisable players, the clubs risk further legal action by the ARL if they do not fulfil fixtures.

Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, and a former Featherstone Rovers player, yesterday accepted an invitation to mediate. "I am willing to assist in any positive initiative that may help to bring about an amicable settlement on behalf of the game," he said.

Ken Arthurson, the ARL chairman, wants Sir Geoffrey to chair any meetings between himself and Lindsay. The British Amateur Rugby League Association has also offered to act as peace-broker.

Meanwhile, Lindsay was talking tough. "The truth is that the 311 Super League players and their coaches are determined to run a competition and we must all recognise that," Lindsay said. "It would appear, therefore, there will be two competitions in Australia this season, and certainly the RFL wants to play world club championship matches against calibre sides, such as Canberra and Brisbane."

Colin Love, the ARL solicitor, said that Super League clubs would be expected to sue players to prevent them taking part in an unauthorised competition, in compliance with court orders. Love also said that the ARL would consider suing clubs if they refused to sue their players.

The state of club finances in the Super League in Great Britain are revealed as perilous in some cases in a Radio Five Live investigation tonight. Nick Grimoldby, of the Professional Players Association, says on the *On the Line* programme that some are either behind with payments or are not playing players money they are due.

Adrian Hadley, 33, who was released by Widnes two months ago, yesterday became the latest rugby league player to switch code. The former Wales rugby union threequarter, who joined Salford from Cardiff in 1988, signed a three-year full-time contract to play rugby union at Sale. He joins John Devereux, his former Wales and Widnes team-mate, who will play there in winter.



Philip Neville, left, and his brother, Gary, at home yesterday after being named in the England squad. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Neville's boys united in England cause

Peter Ball looks at the latest achievement of probably the most successful sporting family in Great Britain

Terry Venables, the England football coach, does not get a universally good press, but his decision, yesterday, to pick Gary and Philip Neville, the Manchester United defenders, in his squad for the game against Bulgaria at Wembley next week will be widely applauded. If they play, they will be the first brothers to represent England together since Jack and Bobby Charlton, who did so 28 times between 1965 and 1970.

Philip Neville, 19, has been included in the squad after only three months as a United regular. Gary, 21, also made the leap from United's reserves to England in quick time, winning the first of his six caps last summer.

"We are very proud of them," Neville Neville, their father, said yesterday. They are a pair to be proud of, for, as well as their prowess as two of the outstanding young players in the country, they are sportsmen in an old tradition.

"Phil says that Gary would be helping him get back at me, and they would be devising a plan over cocoa tonight, if their parents let them stay up after 8pm." Brian McClair, their United colleague, wrote in *United* magazine, after a disagreement over a bad pass in a reserve match in October; and, if McClair was writing with tongue in cheek, the picture captures the flavour of two young men who live for their sport.

That, though, reflects the family. The two boys are only the most famous members of a sporting family of rare distinction. Tracey, Philip's twin sister, is an England Under-21 netball international. Neville, himself, the commercial manager of Bury, in the Endsleigh Insurance League, where Jill, his wife, is assistant secretary, was a local cricketer and footballer. Jill reached higher standards, playing for Bury at table tennis and hockey.

If the Charltons are the obvious footballing comparison, an even more pertinent one is offered by the Comptons, although they did not have a sports-playing sister and played together only in wartime internationals. Denis was a double international, at football and cricket; Leslie kept wicket for Middlesex and played football for England.

Before the seasons became almost indistinguishable, the Neville boys surely would have followed suit, for both were outstanding schoolboy cricketers. They are used to setting records, becoming the first pair of brothers to play together for Lancashire Schools under-15s, in 1990. That year, Gary was selected for the Northern Counties, but a broken thumb meant that he lost his chance of selection for England.

Philip's cricketing career lasted longer. In 1991, he captained England Schools under-14s; in 1992, he became one of the youngest players to represent Lancashire in the Second XI championship, and some hoped that, unlike Gary, he would choose cricket rather than football.

Instead, like his older brother, he joined United, and followed him in captaining the youth team, into the United first team, England Under-21s and now into the full squad.

If he plays, he may take some shifting as he is a better full back than his brother, but that is because Gary, for all that he has earned his England caps at right back, is a natural centre half. Ferguson, who likes his central defenders to be tall, took some convincing of that, but he is certain of it now. Will Venables follow the same route in the summer?

"We should really all stop talking about Gary's height, and appreciate his terrific temperament, character, composure and ability to read the game," David Sadler, a former United and England centre half, said recently. He could have been describing both.

Swimmers hampered by gruelling schedule

BY CRAIG LORD

BRITAIN'S leading swimmers are facing a test of their stamina as well as their skills at the Olympic trials in Sheffield. The reason is that the trials will be conducted over the next four days rather than the seven-day period which would have been fairer to the competitors and offered an environment closer to the one which they will encounter in Atlanta.

Almost every other leading swimming nation has opted to have its trials mirror the Olympic Games programme, but Britain has proved penny-pinching over providing conditions that would have better suited its swimmers and prepared them for the summer ahead.

Take Paul Palmer, one of only a handful of realistic Olympic medal hopes. Over the next three days, Palmer, coached by Ian Turner at Lincoln, will race heats and finals of 200, 400 and 1,500 metres freestyle, a total of 4,200 metres of competitive racing. His is one among many such examples at Ponds Forge pool, where the best two in each event qualify for the Games — provided the second-placed swimmer has achieved the cut-off time in one of five designated meetings over the past nine months.

Palmer's entry in the 1,500 metres, an event in which he is a former European junior champion, gives the trials a rare taste of the intensity of competition endured regulary by the likes of Americans and Australians. Only two swimmers per nation can enter each race, so either Palmer, Ian Wilson, who was second at the world short-course championships in December, or Graeme Smith — all three among the top six in the world over the past year — will miss the cut.

A similar fate awaits one of three vying for a berth in the 100 metres backstroke. Martin Harris, the national record-holder, must fend off Neil Willey, the teenager who finished second at the world short-course championships in Harris's absence, and Adam Ruckwood, who is better over 200 metres.

The trials are likely to be a formality for the likes of Sarah Hardcastle, the only British swimmer who holds an international title (800m freestyle world short-course champion), Mark Foster and Nick Gillingham, a bronze in the 200 metres breaststroke making him Britain's only medal winner in the pool at Barcelona four years ago.

Leading teams made to work hard to advance

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN ADELAIDE

AFTER three days of intense competition in the men's world outdoor bowls championships at the Lockleys Centre here, Scotland, the Leonard Trophy holders, England, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand are unbeaten in pairs and triples.

Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall, of Scotland, survived a narrow escape against Israel in the pairs yesterday, however, while Brett Morley, David Cutler and John Bell, of England, struggled to a 16-14 win over Malawi in the triples.

The Commonwealth Games champions, Cameron Curtis and Rex Johnston, of Australia, also came close to defeat — against two extrovert Fijians, Panipasa Matailevu and Caucau Turagabeci, and Rowan Brassey and Gary Lawson, of New Zealand, were fortunate to beat the United States pair. With places in the semi-finals at stake over the next two days, Tony Allcock and Andy Thomson, of England, will challenge Australia tomorrow in the pairs, while Jeremy Henry and Sammy Allen, of Ireland, meet New Zealand.

Scotland appear to be through already, but Will Thomas and Robert Weale, of Wales, have yet to face their closest rivals, Canada and Jersey.

In the triples, the host country also appears to have done enough to reach the knockout stage, but Ireland have yet to meet South Africa, and England will find the New Zealanders a tough proposition. Scotland, for whom Willie Wood, now 57, remains a power, should clinch their place today in the triples semi-finals with victories over Brazil and Botswana.

Only some topsy-turvy results can deny the leading sides now but, on the evidence of the first three days, shocks, normally commonplace in these championships, are not on the cards.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 102 Indiana 94; New Jersey 82 Vancouver 77; Orlando 113 Detroit 91; Houston 102 Golden State 105 (OT); Chicago 89 Sacramento 67; Dallas 72 Cleveland 81; Portland 106 Minnesota 71; LA Lakers 94 Seattle 71

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets 81 London Towers 107.

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's world championships: Pairs: Fourth round: Group A: Scotland bt Argentina 18-17; Norfolk Island bt Israel 20-15, Malawi bt Western Samoa 22-10; Namibia drew with South Africa 17-17; Argentina bt Israel 27-16; Namibia bt Malawi 33-8, Scotland bt Norfolk Island 24-16; South Africa bt Western Samoa 36-5. **Group B:** Cook Islands bt Kenya 17-15, New Zealand bt Hong Kong 21-14, Malaysia drew with United States 19-19, Ireland bt Cook Islands 36-13, Hong Kong bt Malaysia 20-18; New Zealand bt United States 20-16. **Group C:** Canada bt Papua New Guinea 20-14, Swaziland bt Zimbabwe 25-17, Wales bt Thailand 36-14, Canada bt Swaziland 36-18, Jersey bt Thailand 32-7; Zimbabwe bt Papua New Guinea 24-15. **Group D:** Australia bt Guernsey 30-11, Fiji bt Botswana 30-16, Brazil bt Zambia 23-18, England bt Singapore 38-13; *Australia bt Singapore 38-13; Australia* 18-16; Brazil bt Fiji 22-18, England bt Guernsey 29-9. Fifth round: **Group A:** Namibia bt Western Samoa 31-22, Norfolk Island bt Argentina 22-14, Scotland bt Israel 25-18; South Africa bt Malawi 36-17. Group positions: 1, Africa 7; Group B: New Zealand bt Cook Islands 22-8; Hong Kong bt Kenya 30-13, Ireland bt United States 30-8. Group positions: Equal 1, Ireland and New Zealand 8, 3, Hong Kong 6. **Group C:** Canada bt Thailand 42-10; Jersey bt Swaziland 19-13; Wales bt Papua New Guinea 31-9. Group positions: Equal 1, Canada and Wales 8, 3, Jersey 6. **Group D:** Australia bt Fiji 25-19; Guernsey bt Botswana 33-17; England bt Zambia 28-21; Singapore bt Brazil 30-16. Group positions: Equal 1, Australia and England 10; 3, Fiji 6. Triples: Fourth round: **Group A:** Australia bt Namibia 24-20; Singapore bt Guernsey 18-15; United States bt Kenya 23-10. **Group B:** Argentina bt Swaziland 14-11; South Africa bt Cook Islands 17-15, Ireland bt Wales 32-14, Malaysia bt Thailand 28-13. **Group C:** Botswana bt Brazil 21-15, Jersey bt Zambia 15-13, Scotland bt Western Samoa 30-8. **Group D:** England bt Norfolk Island 26-13; New Zealand bt Fiji 26-9; Zimbabwe bt Hong Kong 22-13; Papua New Guinea bt Malawi 30-10. Fifth round: **Group A:** Australia bt Singapore 28-12; Guernsey bt Namibia 26-12, Israel bt United States 20-19. Group positions: 1, Australia 10; 2, Israel 6. **Group B:** Wales bt Argentina 24-12; Cook Islands bt Thailand 15-11, Ireland bt Swaziland 35-8; South Africa bt Malaysia 21-12. Group positions: Equal 1, South Africa and Ireland 10. **Group C:** Botswana bt Zambia 27-11; Brazil bt Jersey 19-12; Canada bt Western Samoa 21-11. Group positions: 1, Scotland 8. 2, Canada and Jersey 6. **Group D:** England bt Malawi 16-14; Fiji bt Hong Kong 21-16; New Zealand bt Zimbabwe 34-8; Norfolk Island bt Papua New Guinea 28-17. Group positions: Equal 1, New Zealand and England 10; 3, Fiji 6.

LLANELLI: Women's indoor home international championships: Scotland bt Ireland 131-105 (Scotland skips first) E McGarvie bt B Wylie 25-16; J Lindores bt J Mulholland 34-7; F Haddon lost to M Johnston 11-34, J Conlan bt M Mallon 22-10, J Sykes lost to B Cameron 19-21; E Wren bt N Montgomery 20-17. **Scotland bt Wales 120-117** (Scotland skips last) F Haddon lost to B Morgan 20-12, J Conlan lost to D Rowlands 26-23, J Sykes bt P Griffiths 28-13, E Wren bt R Jones 28-13; E McGarvie lost to A Dainton 23-14, J Lindores lost to S Otwer 22-15.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

UEFA CUP: Quarter-final: second leg: Bordeaux 3 AC Milan 0 (Bordeaux win 3-2 on agg), Nottingham Forest 1 Bayern Munich 5 (Bayern win 7-2 on agg); PSV Eindhoven 2 Barcelona 3 (Barcelona win 5-4 on agg); Roma 3 Slavia Prague 1 (aet, 2-0 after 90 mins, 3-3 on agg, Prague win on away goals).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa 0 Middlesbrough 0

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 3 Huddersfield 0; Crystal Palace 2 Luton 0; Ipswich 2 Oldham 1; Reading 3 Southend 3. **Second division:** Bradford 1 Notts County 0; Brentford 1 Carlisle 1, Chesterfield 1 Wrexham 1; Crewe 3 Burnley 1; Oxford United 3 Swindon 0; Shrewsbury 1 Peterborough 1; Stockport 0 Bristol City 0. **Third division:** Bury 2 Hereford 0, Chester 0 Wigan 0, Colchester 2 Cambridge United 1, Leyton Orient 1 Scarborough 0, Lincoln 1 Barnet 2, Northampton 0 Hartlepool 0, Rochdale 3 Torquay 0

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough 3 Dover 2, Stalybridge 2 Runcorn 0, Woking 3 Slough 0, Spalding Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Bromsgrove 2 Kettering 0, Southport 4 Macclesfield 4.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Greenock Morton 1 Dunfermline 1.

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying match, first leg: Scotland 0 England 3

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley 1 Frickley 1; Gainsborough 0 Emley 3; Matlock 5 Witton 2. **First division:** Netherfield 1 Whitley Bay 2. President's Cup: Second-round replay: Buxton 1 Gusaley 3.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Dorchester 2 Sudbury 0; Gresley 1 Gloucester 0; Halesowen 0 Rushden and Diamonds 0, Ilkeston 1 Atherstone 1. **Midland division:** Bridgnorth 1 Solihull 4; Hinckley Town 1 Leicester United 0; Sutton Coldfield 2 Tamworth 0. **Southern division:** Erith and Belvedere 3 Weymouth 4; Witney 1 Tonbridge Angels 1. *Dr Marten's Cup:* Third-round replay: Nuneaton 2 Moor Green 0

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 4 Enfield 1; Bromley 3 Chertsey 3; Carshalton 2 Bishop's Stortford 0; Dulwich 1 Hayes 1; St Albans 1 Kingstonian 2; Walton and Hersham 3 Molesey 3. **First division:** Berkhamsted 0 Basingstoke 3; Heybridge Swifts 2 Aldershot Town 0; Leyton Pennant 4 Whyteleafe 0, Staines 2 Wokingham 1; Tooting and Mitcham 1 Oxford City 3. **Second division:** Bedford Town 3 Wivenhoe 2; Bracknell 4 Hemel Hempstead 2; Leatherhead 2 Dorking 3, Metropolitan Police 0 Hampton 2; Tilbury 3 Saffron Walden 1, Ware 0 Banstead 1. **Third division:** East Thurrock 2 Lewes 0; Epsom and Ewell 4 Windsor and Eton 1; Harefield 1 Carterton 0, Leighton 2 Aveley 1, Southall 2 Camberley 1, Wealdstone 7 Hertford 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 1 Porthmadog 1; Connah's Quay 2 Rhyl 1; Llansantffraid 3 Briton Ferry 1; Barry 2 Inter Cardiff 1

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA CUP: Final: Glentoran 1 Glentoran 1

LEINSTER SENIOR CUP: Semi-final: Bohemians 0 Athlone 2

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 2 Stourport 3; Cradley 0 Erlingshall Hi 2; Walsall Wood 0 Wolverhampton Casuals 1, Westfields 1 Gornal 1

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 2 Manchester United 1; Sheffield Wed 2 Everton 2; Tranmere 2 Bolton 1. **Second division:** Coventry 3 Hull 0; Grimsby 3 Aston Villa 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers 2 Portsmouth 0; West Ham 1 Millwall 0

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm 4 Odd Down 0; Backwell 1 Calne 0, Westbury 2 Paulton 3

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Swindon Supermarine 1 Bradley 0

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell 2 Blakenall 1; Chasetown 4 West Midlands Police 0; Pershore 0 Sandwell 1; Rushall Olympic 3 Bolehall Swifts 1

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham 0 Halstead 2; Stowmarket 0 Diss 1; Watton 2 Cornard 2; Wisbech 2 Great Yarmouth 0; Woodbridge 0 Felixstowe 1; Wroxham 0 Haverhill 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Swanage and Herston 3 Cowes Sports 0; Thatcham 2 Petersfield 1; Wimborne 2 Eastleigh 2

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Concord 1 Southend Manor 0; Sawbridgeworth 1 East Ham 0; Stansted 0 Basildon 0

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hoddesdon 1 Brache Sparta 1; Harpenden 0 London Colney 1; Milton Keynes 3 Welwyn Garden 4.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 1 Newcastle Town 3. Eastwood Hanley 0 Skelmersdale 2, Radcn 3 Nidsgrove 1; Salford 0 Boorto 2

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 0 Hatfield Main 0; Brigg 1 Ossett Town 2

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Crowborough 0 Hailsham 3, Southwick 1 Wick 3

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta 4 Ramsgate 1, Tunbridge Wells 0 Furness 2

GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayer Leverkeusen 2 Hansa Rostock 0; Urdingen 3 VfB Stuttgart 4; Hamburg 0 Cologne 0.

LIBERTADORES CUP: Group one: Espoli (Ec) 1 Olimpia (Par) 0 (at Quito) Group two: Defensor Sporting (Uru) 2 Penarol (Uru) 4 (at Montevideo) Group three: America de Cali (Col) 2 Guabir (Bol) 0 (at Santa Cruz, Bolivia) Group four: Corinthians (Br) 3 Universidad Catolica (Chile) 2 (at Santiago) Group five: Minerven (Ven) 2 San Lorenzo (Arg) 2 (at Puerto Ordaz).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 6 Toronto 5; Florida 5 Ottawa 2; NY Rangers 1 Edmonton 4; Philadelphia 4 NY Islanders 1; Washington 1 Anaheim 2; Vancouver 3 Colorado 4.

ICE SKATING

EDMONTON, Canada: World championships: Ice dance (after compulsory dances) 1, O Grichuk and E Platov (Russ) 0 4 factored pts, 2, A Krylova and O Ovsannikov (Russ) 0 8, 3, S-L Bourne and V Kraatz (Can) 1 2, 4, M Anissina and G Peizerat (Fr) 1 6, 5, I Romanova and I Yaroshenko (Uku) 2 0; 6, I Lobatcheva and I Averbukh (Russ) 2 4; 15, M Humphrey and P Askew (GB) 6 0. Pairs (after short programme). 1, M Woetzel and I Steuer (Ger) 0 5; 2, M Eltsova and A Bushkov (Russ) 1 0; 3, E Shishkova and V Naumov (Russ) 1 5; 4, O Kazakova and A Dmitriev (Russ) 2 0; 5, J Meno and T Sand (USA) 2 5; 16, L Rogers and M Aldred (GB) 8 0

RUGBY UNION

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's final: Cardiff INE 6 Loughborough 3. **Women's final:** Birmingham 5 Loughborough 32

CLUB MATCHES: Bath 16 Army 27; Lydney 21 Gloucester 12; Northampton 30 RAF 18

SKIING

TIGNES, France: British Land British downhill championships: Men: 1, G Bell 1min 15.59sec; 2, A Freshwater 1:16.76; 3, D Walker 1:17.25; 4, R Walker 1:17.61; 5, J Ormond 1:17.71; 6, A Baxter 1.17.92. **Women:** 1, T Pine 1:21.90; 2, K Morris 1:22.46; 3, R Bradridge 1:30.73. **Juniors: Men:** 1, F Mackol 1:18.00, 2, R Green 1:18 40; 3, J Moulder-Brown 1:19.01.

TENNIS

ST PETERSBURG, Russia: Men's tournament: First round: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt D Camporese (It) 6-3, 6-3; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt A Volkov (Russ) 6-2, 7-5; F Dewulf (Bel) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 6-3, 4-6, 6-1; *J Tarango (US) bt C-U Steeb (Ger) 6-7, 6-0, 6-1;* M Gustafsson (Swe) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-2, 6-4; J Apell (Swe) bt N Kulti (Swe) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; N Marques (Port) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6-4, 7-6

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £525.85, 23 £34.00, 22 £2.20 (three dividends only) Four draws £6.25 Ten homes £369.05 Five aways £263.20

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £190.55, 23 £17.05. Ten homes: £595.50. Five aways: £58.65.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £64 85, 23 £3.50 (two dividends only). Four draws £6 00 Eight homes £23 80 Four aways £47 60. Easy zz £92 40 Lucky numbers 20 18 36 33 30 15

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Women's indoor home international championships (Llanelli).

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship qualifying (Telford)

SQUASH: Equitable Life Super Series play-off finals (Hatfield).

SWIMMING: British Olympic trials (Sheffield)

TABLE TENNIS: European men's league relegation play-off, first leg: England v Poland (Bletchley)

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup
Quarter-finals, second leg
Feyenoord (2) v
Borussia Mönchengladbach (2) .....
Paris Saint-Germain (0) v Parma (1) .....
Rapid Vienna (1) v Dynamo Moscow (0)
Real Zaragoza (0) v
Deportivo La Coruña (1) .....

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Second division: Torquay v Cheltenham (7.45).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke v Leeds (7.0); West Bromwich v Nottingham Forest (7.0) Second division: Aston Villa v Manchester City (7.0)

ICIS LEAGUE: Guardian Insurance Cup: Fourth-round replay: Kingstonian v Heybridge Swifts.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Shamrock (7.45).

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Hadleigh United v Diss

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Semi-final: Walsall v East Berks (at Walsall FC). FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Hampshire v Essex (at Southampton University, 3.0); Merseyside v Humberside (at Littlewoods, 3.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Women's indoor home international championships (Llanelli).

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Young pretenders challenge world No 1 in her favourite fiefdom

Davies sets the highest standard

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

EARLIER this year, when JoAnne Carner let it be known she would be standing down as captain of the United States Solheim Cup team, there was a request for volunteers to replace her. Helen Dobson, from Lincolnshire, stood up and brought the house down. Judy Rankin got the job in the end, but the Europeans — plus an exceptional Australian or two — have set out to make her task as difficult as possible.

Their aim was to win every event on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour this season, shutting out the Americans. Liselotte Neumann, the Swede with the smoothly cultured swing, won two of the first four tournaments and Karrie Webb, the 21-year-old Australian who won the Weetabix Women's British Open last August, won another. The third event, however, was won by Meg Mallon, a cheerful, freckle-faced American.

Mallon, a former US Open champion, did well to win while she could, for the Standard Register Ping event, which starts today at Moon Valley Country Club in Phoenix, Arizona, has become the personal fiefdom of Laura Davies, still the world No 1 according to the Ping leaderboard, the women's equivalent of the Sony rankings.

Davies, now 32, missed the cut in Tucson last week — Neumann won — and was hampered by a bad back, caused, she thought, by an excess of tennis and cricket during her weeks off at home. She also putted poorly — "I hit 17 greens last Friday and was only one under par" — and, clad in a penguin-patterned shirt, gave the putter reps palpitations as she tried out their wares under the desert sun.

Davies and her caddie, her cousin, Matthew, went to Las Vegas for the Bruno v Tyson heavyweight boxing encounter. "It was the best sporting event I've ever been to," Davies, a Bruno fan, said. "The pre-fight build-up was brilliant." Inveterate gambler though she is, she did not have any money on the outcome. "You couldn't get close to the bookies, the queues were 30 deep."



Davies's powerful driving still makes her the player the best of the rest must beat at Moon Valley this week. Photograph: Tony White

Not too many people will bet against Davies at Moon Valley, where she has won for the past two years, but she faces formidable opposition, not least from two youngsters: Annika Sorenstam, 25, of Sweden, who won enough awards to last a lifetime in 1995, and Webb, who leads the money-list after her first few weeks on the US tour. She has won more than $200,000 faster than any player in LPGA history.

Sorenstam enjoyed a season she knows that she is unlikely ever to repeat. She won the Women's US Open, topped the money-lists on both sides of the Atlantic, was player of the year in the United States.

She also picked up, she reckoned, more than 15 awards. She was Athlete of the Year in Sweden, the first golfer to win the country's highest sporting honour, her name now alongside those of superstars such as Bjorn Borg and Ingemar Stenmark.

Everything came in such a rush that Sorenstam took five weeks off over Christmas and the new year, taking stock of what she had done, planning how to cope, discussing the future with David Esch, her fiancé (the wedding date is set but secret), cooking, playing with her cat, Nelson, and generally just being normal. It meant she did not play in the Chrysler-Plymouth Tournament of Champions in early January, which drew criticism. "I understand that," Sorenstam said, "but I need a bit of understanding, too. I was mentally drained. I'm a human being and I needed a break. I can't be everywhere and I am going to be out here for years."



Davies: the trophy was hers in 1994

Sorenstam admitted she was still "walking on clouds", but she should have little trouble keeping in touch with reality, something that has never bothered the inestimable Muffin Spencer-Devlin, who is still convinced she was King Arthur in another existence. Muffin's recent decision to come out — to admit that she is a lesbian — merited five pages in *Sports Illustrated*. Guinevere, however, was unavailable for comment.

Feherty back in the old routine

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

THE brilliant one-liner, the rapier-fast jibe aimed as often at himself as at others, has always been David Feherty's stock in trade. But in the blackest times of a miserable winter last year, the Irish golfer's mordant wit made him more Pagliacci than Puck; behind the clown's face there was turmoil and misery being enacted in what has always been an overactive mind.

A grindingly unsuccessful and increasingly unhappy two-year sojourn on the US PGA Tour ended with his professional life in tatters and his personal life in rags. He did not hold on to his player's card, then failed to win it back at the tour's school, and he was just completing a divorce from Caroline, his wife.

He lost weight dramatically, and if the one-liners did not completely dry up, they were less frequent and seemed forced. Feherty's emotions were in a turmoil.

It was emotion that led him to announce publicly that his playing career was over.

It was emotion that told him that it was no longer worth putting in the effort and getting nowhere.

It was emotion that led him to talk to Sam Torrance, his close friend and fellow Ryder Cup player, who told him that he was making a mistake.

And it was emotion that returned him to the surroundings that brought him his greatest success, the PGA European Tour. It has been the happiest of returns. In a professional sense, Feherty has come home, has a second and a fourth to his name in four tournaments, and is fourteenth in the European money-list as he goes into his fifth tournament, the Portuguese Open, which starts at Aroeira near here today.

He was asked if he felt himself to be at a crossroads in his darkest moments. "Not so much a crossroads," he said. "My mind was more like Spaghetti Junction, there was so much going on in there."

He was, however, potentially playing the game better than he ever had. "My engine was running perfectly," he said. "The trouble was, there was nobody at the wheel."

Now there is; and he has found himself back on the right road with ambitions — a sixth European tour win for a start, then a place in the next Ryder Cup team. He intends to play a score or more tournaments in Europe, interspersed with visits to his home in Dallas, to be with his sons, Shey and Rory.

He has also found personal happiness again in the person of Anita Schneider, a sales executive from Mississippi whom he met on a blind date and who exercised her Leap Year privilege by proposing to Feherty on February 29.

"What did you say, David?" somebody asked. Long and considered thought, then: "I think it went something along the lines of 'Yes, please,' as I recall it." David Feherty is back; and European golf is the better for it.



Feherty: happy again

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

ZEITGEIST
(c) The general intellectual, moral, political and cultural spirit of an age. For example, the zeitgeist of today's younger generation includes conservationist Greenery, equality of opportunity, the computer game, the loud pop song and the gore film.

FLAGITIOUS
(a) Grossly criminal, utterly disgraceful, shamefully wicked: just about the strongest condemnatory adjective in the book. From the Latin *flagitium* a crime, sin and shockingly bad behaviour. Government reports favour milder epithets such as incompetent, misleading and sophistical. In Rome *flagitium* was punished by throwing a book even rockier than the Scott report at the offender.

CALEFACIENT
(c) A medicinal agent producing a feeling of warmth, such as the military tot of rum before winter night patrol. From the Latin for "warm-making". As you pass round the cognac, you could try saying: "Calefacient, anyone?"

SPHRAGISTICS
(a) The study of engraved seals. From the Greek for such a seal. A useful know-all-dropping term, as in, "When I was reading Sphragistics at New Hall." The study might seem inoffensive though obscure, but the cruelty of the original engraving process in a world that disapproves of seal-culling seems barbaric."

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RADIO CHOICE

Con trick in Eldorado

If the Snakes Don't Get You ... *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Paul Tomlinson doesn't use the words, so I will. They are: con trick. Tomlinson learnt the full extent of it when he went out to South Africa to uncover the roots of his ancestors who emigrated to the Cape in 1820. The British Government hit on a way of cutting the lengthening jobless queues. It offered cheap passage for 4,000 British subjects, fooling them into believing that good farming land and security were waiting for them. No Eldorado there, however. The settlers found barren land. Worse, they were used as a buffer against raids from hostile Africans across the border. All in all, it was a shameful chapter in British colonial history.

Soundtrack: Bucks in the USSR. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Imogen Edwards-Jones wrote *The Taming of the Eagle*, a book about Russia in the first 100 days after communism collapsed. She knew what it was like, having lived and worked there. Tonight, she reports on what is happening in Russia now. If ever she writes a sequel to *The Taming of the Eagle*, she might call it *The Gathering of the Vultures*. The scavengers are the money-driven twentysomethings from the West whose hungry companies have swooped on Russia and are squeezing the last rouble out of its economy. "Twisted, perverted, young men," an older, wiser Westerner calls them. He says these commercial wideboys are much in need of a bit of civilisation under their belts.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Collins and Maconie's Hit Parade 10.00 John Peel **Midnight** Claire Sturgess, incl at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce incl at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Alex Lester 5.05 Paul Heiney 7.00 Laughter in the Air 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Shared Experience 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Sue McGarry, incl at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme Incl 6.55, 7.55 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine incl 10.35 Euronews 11.30 Health News 12.00 Midday with Mair incl 12.34pm Moneycheck 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe on Five incl at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 Nationwide, incl 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra incl at 7.20 Sport 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Women on Top 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anne Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Network UK 8.00 World News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.45 Good Books 9.00 News in German 9.15 Sports International 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World Ranking 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.00 News in German 3.15 Learning World 3.30 Network UK 4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Network UK 11.45 Health Matters **Midnight** Newsdesk 12.30am On the Move 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Minefields 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Drama 3.00 World News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert Includes Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Onslow (String Quartet in B minor, Op 40); Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); Britten (Four Sea Interludes, Peter Grimes); Telemann (Double Chatumeaux Concerto No 1 in D minor); Cole Porter (Snake in the Grass); Bach (Cantata No 140, Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Telemann (Suite: Don Quichotte auf der Hochzeit des Comacho); Mussorgsky (The Nursery, excerpts); Schumann (Symphony No 3 in E flat)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Froberger (Tombeau sur la mort de M Blancheroche; Capriccio IV); **10.05** *Artists of the Week*: Juilliard Quartet. Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 135); **10.35** Messiaen (Cinq rechants, No 4); Mozart (String Quintet in D); Martinů (Symphony No 4)
12.00 Composers of the Week: The Court of Frederick the Great. Occasional music by Frederick himself, C. P. E. Bach, C. H. Graun, J. A. Hasse and Mozart
1.00 Airs and Affections. Highlights of late-Baroque opera (2/4)
2.00 Schools, Radio Showcase **2.05** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop
3.00 Ragtime. Works by Debussy and Stravinsky
3.10 The Fifties: Made for TV. Melvyn Bragg looks back at an edition of *Monitor*
3.25 Vale of Glamorgan Festival 1995. The opening concert from last year's festival. Michael Torke (Ash); Michael Nyman (Suite: The Piano); Michael Torke (Saxophone Concerto); Martin Butler (On the Rocks); Gavin Bryars (The Green Ray)
5.00 The Music Machine. The BBC Singers under Stephen Cleobury perform pieces specially composed by students from London schools
5.15 In Tune. Linda Ormiston's guest is the trumpeter John Wallace. Including Verdi (Overture: Luisa Miller); Johann Strauss, son, arr Berg (Waltz: Wine, Women and Song); Berio (Folk Songs)
7.30 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic under Jerzy Maksymiuk; Rascher Saxophone Quartet; Ian Tracey, organ. Barber (Adagio for strings); Philip Glass (Concerto for Saxophone Quartet); **8.10 The Fifties: In the Fifties,** by Peter Vansittart; **8.30** Saint-Saëns (Symphony No 3 in C minor, organ)
9.25 The Fifties: Made for TV. *This Week*
9.30 The Sonnet. The Irish poet Brendan Kennelly discusses his use and understanding of the sonnet form
9.50 Intersections. Fretwork performs music for viols by Purcell, Picforth and Tye (2/4)
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Holmes and Richard Coles discuss Coleridge's genius
11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestras. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Jiri Belohlavek. Dvořák (Wind Serenade in D minor, Op 44); Suk (Serenade for strings in E flat, Op 6) (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day, with Dr Christine Trevett **6.30** Today incl at **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day, with John Newbury **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze
10.00-10.30 News; A Little of What You Fancy (FM only). David Jason stars as Pop Larkin and Pam Ferris as Ma in the final episode of Eric Pringle's dramatisation of the novel by H. E. Bates
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours. With Chris Choi
12.25pm The British Film Studios. Film historian John Huntley treks around the sites of Britain's film studios This programme features Bernard Vornaus, director at Twickenham Studios in the 1930s **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One. With Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; If the Snakes Don't Get You. - See Choice
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. With Dare Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees *Twelve Angry Men*, directed by Harold Pinter in Bristol, and talks to Isabelle Huppert and Anna Massey about their roles in *Mary Stuart*
4.45 Short Story: Speechless by Rachel Billington Read by John Hartley, live from the London Book Fair
5.00 PM. With Chris Lowe and Jackie Hardgrave
5.45 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Darling You Were Marvellous. Sandi Toksvig begins a second series of the improvised panel show
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Soundtrack. Bucks in the USSR. See Choice
8.00 Analysis. The Elusive Peace. Peter Kellner chairs a discussion on the prospects for a permanent peace in Northern Ireland
8.45 Stranger than Fiction. Ann Pilling, a writer for children, considers the impact of hearing the Passion story for the first time (4/6)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Presented by Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Picnic at Hanging Rock, by Joan Lindsay (4/10) (r)
11.00 Laughter in the Dark. The final part of Markus Brill's series of whodunnits
11.30-12.00 Postcard from Gotham (FM only) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather **12.30 The Late Book: Metroland,** Julian Barnes reads his own first novel (4/10) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Violent men, tender men and misfits

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

When the next television set is delivered and I find that the man on the Taiwanese assembly line has omitted the V for Violence chip, I shall ring up Virginia Bottomley and she will arrive in her little blue van and her slinky blue overalls, wearing a baseball cap back to front.

She will unscrew the back of my set and before she can fit the V-chip in exchange for 60p, I shall hand her £1.20 and she will say: "Wossat, guv?" And I shall say: "That is for the P for Pointless chip, which I require in addition to the V for Violence chip. Will that be four sugars, or six?"

After Virginia, in her sturdy Reeboks, has squelched out of sight across the mudslide that is my drive, my life will change. No longer will I glance at the television listings, say the dread words "this looks interesting" and spend the next hour wishing I had painted the dog or taken the kennel for a walk.

No, the P-chip will free me from inanity, release me from (especially) documentaries that start nowhere and finish up nowhere else. If you want the blunt truth in bold type, I shall be released from the likes of **Modern Times: Tracy and Joey** (BBC2).

The root of this tedious, pretentious piece of nothing, shown last night, was a real tragedy. At Christmas 1994, Tracy Mertens, aged 31, was abducted in Birmingham by two men who took her to a church in Cheshire. There, they set fire to her. Tracy lived for 16 hours. So bad were her burns that when the hospital put her on a drip, the fluids leached out through her skin.

Joey Kavanagh, a known drug addict, had been her partner for 15 years and the police believe the two abductors were actually looking for him. It probably had something to do with money. The case was heavily publicised at the time, nobody was ever caught and although Joey was certainly not involved in the murder, he refuses to say whether he knows who might have done it.

So, tragic. But *Modern Times* got no further than the police have. The programme deployed every filmic gimmick, slow motion, black and white, slow pans over mundane artefacts, but none served to hide the fact that *Modern Times* knew nothing worth knowing. All the programme did was retread the old tyres of this drab vehicle, a tale of low-life, monosyllabic misfits in which the only people one cared about, apart from the dead Tracy, were the couple's two children, smashing, bemused kids adrift in the flotsam of their father's life.

Modern Times asked no new questions, such as how come these children are living in such an atmosphere, and extracted no new answers. It happens that the series producer, Stephen Lambert, has been responsible for some distinguished work. But this was not that. This was gazing into the sewer *in order to tell us that it smells*. I think we knew that.

Joey was the least of the men on BBC2 last night, in more ways than one. Elsewhere we had the male angle on inter-war courtship and one man's angle on violence towards women, the latter in a curious little ten-minute show called **A Bad Time to be a Man**.

Curious because the man who made the film was shown but not identified by name. Therefore everyone who recognises him will know who he is but the rest of us, not recognising him, might as well know his name because we aren't going to meet him anyway.

The man in question had been brought up in a home without men and had gone into the Army, where he discovered that playing chess relieved violent emotions. These had surfaced again in his marriage but he found treatment and cure, if cure there be.

Routine stuff. So was his concluding statement that "extremist" feminism had "caused men to feel inadequate and insecure". I would have thought there was more to male insecurity than that but this was turning into a night when more questions were left hanging than received answers.

If you could stand any more men (well, ITV had a football match), **A Man's World: The Lover** (BBC2) had a lot more going for it. This, the third in a series about attitudes to masculinity in the first half of the century, focused on courtship in the inter-war years.

Were men taught etiquette then? One thought he had been. He was told that you went up the stairs of a bus behind a lady in case she fell backwards and came down the stairs in front of her in case she fell forwards. I was taught that, too, long after the war. By then, the trouble was finding a bus.

Class differences shaped the approach to romance. Upper-crust men drifted into marriage within their own tight circle, whereas raw emotion propelled working-class liaisons, albeit slowly. Geordie Todd, a retired North Shields trawlerman, told how he courted his wife-to-be for five years: it was a year before he was allowed to touch her. Geordie was a patient man. "I wanted someone to look up to. I just wanted to care for her."

Such sentiments can be made to sound quaint, but even in the hurly burly, grab-a-girlie of modern life, tenderness is surely not out of fashion. The trouble with men, as this series shows, is unchanged: we are better at tenderness when reflected on in tranquillity than at the moment it might do some good.

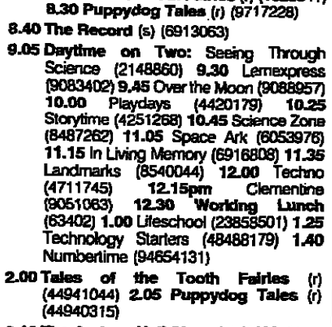
Frank Davies said in the film that his wife was always wanting him to say that he loved her. He *showed* it all the time, but she wanted him to *say* so. "Now and again I'd blurt it out," Frank said. "When I'd had a drink."

● *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

6.00am Business Breakfast (45315)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (76686)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (6735315)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2161711)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (8985266) **10.30 Good Morning** (s) (26112)
12.00 News (Ceefax), and weather (2012131)
12.05pm Turnabout (s) (5435773)
12.30 Going for a Song (s) (65860)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (79773)
1.30 Regional News and weather (23114763)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94663889) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (8341537) **2.40 The Flying Doctors** (Ceefax) (s) (1055266)
3.30 The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (2718315) **3.35 The Morph Files** (s) (5722995) **3.45 Dinobabies** (6780624) **4.10 Highlander** (Ceefax) (s) (3136173) **4.35 The Really Wild Show** (Ceefax) (s) (2728860) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3577112) **5.10 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (1187860)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (819841)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (711)
6.30 Regional News magazines (173)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (3763)
7.30 EastEnders. Everyone is invited to Peggy's birthday party (Ceefax) (s) (247)
8.00 Alien Empire: War of the Worlds. Although disease-carrying mosquitoes are the world's biggest killers, most insects support human beings in unimaginable ways: from tiny bees that support the American cattle industry to insects as gourmet food items. This programme, the last in the series, reveals insects in a new light (Ceefax) (s) (6773)
8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan presents a look at the trials and tribulations of sports personalities in several different fields (r) (s) (5808)
9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (712686)
9.05 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (129792)
9.35 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina and Patsy go on holiday to Provence but find the language barrier is the least of their problems. With Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley (r) (Ceefax) (s) (721334)
10.05 FILM: Mistresses: The Woman Scorned. (3/3) (Ceefax) (s) (204315) **N.I.: 10.05** Spotlight **10.35** Mistresses **11.25** Question Time **12.25am** FILM: Breaking Point **1.55** Weather **WALES: 10.05** The Slate (242402) **10.35** Mistresses (467957) **11.25** Question Time (714537) **12.25** FILM: Happy Together (5430006) **2.05** News (6243938)
10.55 Question Time. David Dimbleby is joined by *Lord Tugendhat, Christina O'Done and MPs Teresa Gorman and Jack Straw (Ceefax) (4848518)*
12.00 FILM: Happy Together (1990) starring Patrick Dempsey and Helen Slater. College comedy about two very different students who are forced to share a room. Directed by Mel Damski (958713)
1.35am Weather (7962826)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Maths Modelling (9593792) **6.25** Animal Behaviour (9589599) **6.50** Catalysts Against Pollution (6797957)
7.15 Breakfast News (1699247)
7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (97179) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5305792) **8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fairies** (r) (1623841) **8.30 Puppydog Tales** (r) (9717228)
8.40 The Record (s) (6913063)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Seeing Through Science (2148860) **9.30** Lernexpress (9083402) **9.45** Over the Moon (9088957) **10.00** Playdays (4420179) **10.25** Storytime (4251268) **10.45** Science Zone (8487262) **11.05** Space Ark (6053976) **11.15** In Living Memory (6916808) **11.35** Landmarks (8540044) **12.00** Techno (4711745) **12.15pm** Clementine (9051063) **12.30 Working Lunch** (63402) **1.00** Lifeschool (23858501) **1.25** Technology Starters (48488179) **1.40** Numbertime (94654131)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (44941044) **2.05 Puppydog Tales** (r) (44940315)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (4090711)
3.00 News (Ceefax), weather (1878327) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (s) (6879112) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (447998)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (976) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (860) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show.** (Ceefax) (s) (1816518)
5.35 The World Figure Skating Championships (s) (840711)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (284518)
6.45 The O Zone (s) (887063)
7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8995)
7.30 First Sight (889); **N.I.: 7.30** Now You're Talking **7.55** Our Roving Reporter **8.00-8.30** Personal Visions; **WALES: 7.30** The Way It Is; **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact; **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report; **NORTH, NORTH-EAST, NORTH-WEST: 7.30** Close Up North; **SOUTH:** Southern Eye **SOUTH-WEST, WEST: 7.30** Close-Up West
8.00 Parsons on Class: Keeping Up with the Joneses (Ceefax) (s) (4315)
8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson and Andy Wilman team up to try Siamese banger racing (Ceefax) (s) (6150)



Joy Adamson and friend (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Reputations: Joy Adamson — Born Wild? (Ceefax) (s) (7860)
10.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (r) (Ceefax) (44889)
10.30 Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (Ceefax) (s) (471860)
10.35 Newsnight (Ceefax) (908889)
11.15 Late Review (s) (508063)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (56396)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Reputations: Joy Adamson — Born Wild?
BBC2, 9.00pm

The author of *Born Free* was far from the demure English rose played in the film by Virginia McKenna, as McKenna is the first to admit. The real Joy Adamson was a volatile and foul-tempered Austrian, by general consent impossible to deal with, and a husband-batterer to boot. Poor George Adamson, the mild-mannered game warden whom she married after the collapse of her two previous marriages, had to endure not only her affairs but physical beatings. The film suggests that her extreme fondness for animals stemmed from an inability (after an early aborted pregnancy) to have her own children. Her rearing of Elsa the lioness was based on genuine affection and although the book and film *Born Free* made her a fortune (George got nothing) she spent the money not on herself but on the conservation of African wildlife.

Taggart: Angel Eyes
ITV, 9.00pm

Thirteen years after its birth, and despite losing its central character, the Scottish police series is still remarkably resilient and confident of itself. Nor does the invention of the creator, Glenn Chandler, show any sign of flagging. Perhaps the secret is that *Taggart* does not exhaust its ideas by being screened too often. Chandler's new three-parter is well up to standard, combining a nicely teasing detective story with a strong whiff of brooding Glasgow atmosphere. You do not tune into *Taggart* for light comedy. When an elderly musician is found strangled, his homosexual partner of 40 years becomes a suspect. The dead man's daughter surfaces, still bitter that her father abandoned the family. Not the least merit of Chandler's script is its sensitive handling of the gay culture at the heart of the story.

Undercover Britain: The Real Auf Wiedersehen Pet
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Although Germany's soaring unemployment figures have sparked bitterness against foreign workers there is another side. It is cogently put in this film by Neil Davies, a former roofer, who arms himself with hidden camera and microphone, teams up with two other Britons and tries his luck on German building sites. His starting point is advertisements in the British tabloid press. The men are recruited by a Dutch middleman. The German firms are supposed to pay the Dutchman, who pays the workers. Disenchantment soon sets in. The hours are long, conditions are bad to dangerous and when it comes to getting paid, the Dutch sub-contractor is mysteriously uncontactable. It is no consolation that workers from Turkey and Bosnia are treated even worse.

Mistresses: The Woman Scorned
BBC1, 10.05pm

Cheated wives and scorned lovers are to the fore this week, telling how their men abandoned them and, in some cases, detailing their methods of revenge. Once again the series follows in the footsteps of the tabloid newspapers. Diana Moran, aka the Green Goddess, and Lady Susan Moon, who chopped up her husband's clothes, are among those rehashing their already much-publicised stories. A tale viewers may not have heard is of Claire, who fell in love with the private detective she hired to spy on her husband. Dame Barbara Cartland suggests that it is up to women if they want to keep their partners. But you wonder whether Dame Barbara would approve of Toni, a stripper who has novel ideas for wives afraid of losing their men. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (1605452)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2146402) **9.55 Regional News** (Teletext) (4407225)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (8602841)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine (98661315) **12.20pm Regional News** (Teletext) and weather (2018315)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (7895082)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7870773)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (9978204)
2.00 Home and Away. Shane awakens from his coma (Teletext) (s) (30744957)
2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (30756792)
2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4359889)
3.20 ITN News (Teletext) (6944727) **3.25 Regional News** (Teletext) and weather (7394268)
3.30 The Riddlers (r) (5718792) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (2723247) **3.50 Rupert** (6928315) **4.15 Mike and Angelo** (r) (s) (6281042) **4.40 Reboot II** (Teletext) (s) (1541711)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (9614063)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (368792)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (815686)
6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (346529)
7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (s) (5421)
7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville presents the story of Tracy Sant, whose life was destroyed by stalker Anthony Burstow (315)
8.00 The Bill. Loxton and Page have their hands full after a hen night is interrupted by the groom (Teletext) (1841)
8.30 Blues and Twos: Solo One. A repeat of the series following the work of motorbiking paramedics of the London Ambulance Service (Teletext) (s) (8696)



James Macpherson stars (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Taggart: Angel Eyes (Teletext) (s) (1686)
10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (580334)
10.05 News at Ten (Teletext) (237570)
10.35 Regional News (Teletext) (123711)
10.45 Getaways (Teletext) (960402)
11.15 On the Line. Debate (967315)
11.45 Hunter. Detective series with Fred Dryer and Stephanie Kramer (215841)
12.40am Carnal Knowledge (3911071)
1.45 Not Fade Away (s) (2778464)
2.40 Shift. A showcase for young producers and directors new to television (2432261)
3.35 FILM: Tidy Endings (1991). Emotional drama starring Harvey Fierstein and Stockard Channing. Directed by Gavin Millar (s) (8022280)
4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (81667)
5.00 The New Mr and Mrs Show (r) (53342)
5.30 ITN News (44551). Ends at **6.00**

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (346529)
7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (315)
10.45 Strangely Scientific (960402)
11.15 3-D (967315) **11.45 In Suspicious Circumstances** (215841)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (2026334)
12.55 Emmerdale (7870773)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (14303696)
1.55 Home and Away (42244599)
2.25 Vanessa (30747044)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3299711)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9614063)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (75247)
10.45 The West at Work (960402)
11.15 Power Game (967315)
11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (215841)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (7870773)
1.25 Chain Letters (14303696)
1.55 A Country Practice (94660792)
2.20 Vanessa (30748773)
2.50-3.20 High Road (4359889)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9614063)
6.25 Central News and weather (823605)
6.55-7.00 Life Line (686421)
10.45 FILM: Evidence of Love. Drama starring Barbara Hershey, Brian Dennehy and John Terry (207150)
12.45am Carnal Knowledge (383984)
1.45 Not Fade Away. Davina McCall chooses videos from Blondie, Sheryl Crow, the Beat and Earth, Wind and Fire (2778464)
3.35 Customs Classified (8022280)
4.20 Jobfinder (6377071)
5.20 Asian Eye (8943629)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (7870773)
1.25 Home and Away (14303696)
1.55 Shortland Street (94660792)
2.20 Vanessa (30748773)
2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4359889)
5.10 Home and Away (9614063)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Crimestoppers (550247)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (179)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (131)
10.45 FILM: National Lampoon's Vacation (34132063)
12.40am Phoenix (3911071)
5.00 Freescreen (53342)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 The Adventures of T-Rex (6794860) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (92624) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (41792) **9.30 Ysgolion** (87082) **12.00 House to House** (38228) **12.30pm Madeline** (58570) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (95711) **1.30 A French Affair 88** (9994228) **2.25 Channel 4 Racing: From Doncaster** (73813044) **4.30 Travelog** (228) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (3529) **5.30 Countdown** (808) **6.00 Newyddion** (271228) **6.15 Hero** (715063) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (126624) **7.25 Ma Ifan Ma** (384537) **8.00 Clecx** (2711) **8.30 Newyddion** (8518) **9.00 I Dot** (9228) **10.00 Annies Bar** (39957) **10.30 FILM: The Ballad of Cable Hogue.** With Jason Robards (63008686) **12.50am Dispatches** (3239648)

6.35am The Adventures of T-Rex. Animation (r) (6794860)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (92624)
9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (41792)
9.30 Schools: Middle English (9078570) **9.45** Cluiche Ceol is Canan (5147995) **10.05** Scientific Eye (1445537) **10.25** Geographical Eye Over Asia (6956696) **10.45** Quest (3231711) **11.00** History in Action. Hypotheticals (6906421) **11.20** The French Programme (6722353) **11.40** The German Programme (4387773)
12.00 House to House (38228)
12.30pm Sesame Street (88537)
1.30 Hullaballoo (r) (57841)
2.00 Pete Smith Specialties. What not to say to your husband's boss when he wants a salary increase (30742599)
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster (s) (73813044)
4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (228)
5.00 Ricki Lake (Teletext) (s) (2996709)
5.45 Terrytoons (649179)
6.00 NBA 24/7. Basketball (421)
6.30 Roseanne. Roseanne and Becky announce they are pregnant (r) (Teletext) (s) (773)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (475228)
7.50 The Slot (433686)
8.00 Africa Express. Beathur Baker travels on Angola's Benguela railway to see the reconstruction of what was once one of the continent's greatest lines (Teletext) (s) (2711)
8.30 Food File. Nigel Slater investigates tomatoes (Teletext) (s) (8518)



British brickies in Germany (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Undercover Britain: The Real Auf Wiedersehen Pet. (Teletext) (s) (1957)
9.30 Annie's Bar. David Dashwood threatens to force a defeat on the Government, so Dunning enlists the help of Fleur to get him into a compromising situation (Teletext) (s) (78334)
10.00 NYPD Blue: Sorry, Wrong Suspect. Sipowicz and Simone are investigating the death of a young Asian girl and suspect her boyfriend is the murderer (Teletext) (s) (954808)
10.55 Whose Line is it Anyway? (r) (Teletext) (s) (710711)
11.30 Devil's Advocate with Darcus Howe(s) (768518)
12.15am Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (6142754)
1.00 Sybil. A two-part drama based on the true story of a woman, played by Sally Field, who developed 16 personalities (r) (Teletext) (930803)
2.55 FILM: The Doctor and the Devils (1985). The legend of 19th-century Edinburgh anatomist Dr Knock and bodysnatchers Burke and Hare. Starring Timothy Dalton, Jonathan Pryce and Stephen Rea. Directed by Freddie Francis (113716). Ends at **4.30**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (84402) **8.30** Press Your Luck (5908266) **8.50** Love Connection (4043353) **9.20** Court TV (6218315) **9.50** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1753624) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6010334) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (2855605) **12.00** Beechy (96841) **1.00pm** Hotel (15889) **2.00** Geraldo (76712) **3.00** Court TV (3599) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5816112) **4.15** Undun (1798605) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7179) **6.00** The Simpsons (4570) **6.30** Jeopardy! (8150) **7.00** LAPD (8808) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4334) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (4228) **8.30** Animal Practice (6063) **9.00** The Commish (67266) **10.00** Star Trek, The Next Generation (60353) **11.00** Melrose Place (32266) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6092713) **12.45am** The Untouchables (4468396) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (90938) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1056613)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00 Sunrise (8672686) **9.30** Beyond 2000 (88150) **10.30** ABC Nightline (90082) **1.30pm** CBS News (82624) **2.30** Parliament Live (8960131) **3.15** Parliament Live (4348624) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (68537) **7.30** Sportsline (56976) **8.30** Reuters Reports (4605) **11.30** CBS News (39286) **12.30am** ABC World News (23700) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (35483) **2.30** Reuters Reports (47280) **3.30** Parliament Replay (59025) **4.30** CBS News (31532) **5.30** ABC World News (86551)

SKY MOVIES

6.05am Jailhouse Rock (1957): Starring Elvis Presley (59537179) **7.45 They Died with their Boots On** (1941) (77148650) **10.10 Born Yesterday** (1993) (97123686) **12.00 Shock Treatment** (1981) (90315) **2.00pm Author! Author!** (1982) (51805) **4.00 The Butter Cream Gang** (1992) (5711) **6.00 Born Yesterday** (1993) (28571995) **7.40 US Top Ten** (2675701) **8.00 The Mask** (1994): Mad-cap comedy with Jim Carrey (43686) **10.00 Guilty as Sin** (1993) (4060802) **11.50 Mistress** (1992) (7796824) **1.40am Secret Sins of the Father** (1993) (7256291) **3.15 Web of Deceit** (1994) (51827193)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Sorry, Wrong Number (1948) (1315) **6.00 Separate Tables** (1958) (40537) **8.00 Club Paradise** (1986) (45082) **10.00 Damien: Omen II** (1978) (388112) **11.55 Paternity** (1981) (2231311) **1.35-3.40am The Tenant** (1976) (31981445)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Little Princess (1939) (78315) **8.00 Joe at the Kingdom of the Ants** () (8937953) **9.10 Thumbelina** () (10772229) **10.00 The Black Rose** (1950) (12792) **12.00 The Scarlet Blade** (1963) (88957) **2.00pm Final Days of Butch and Sundance** (1993) (1165701 3000026e at the Kingdom of the Ants () (5632860) **5.00 Thumbelina** () (1119) **6.00 Mercy Mission: The Rescue of Flight 771** (1993) (82711) **8.00 If Someone Had Known** (1995) (43897266) **9.35 The Movie Show** (635063) **10.00 Striking Distance** (1993) (4046624) **11.50 Killer Looks** (1992) (7736861) **1.35am Last Rites** (1988) (845342) **3.20 Lambada** (1989) (12810819)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (70196505) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (60150179) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (53774808) **7.30** Ducktales (53753315) **8.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (91605247) **8.30** Wonderland (91604518) **9.00** Disney (70107353) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60134131) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (91617092) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54827315) **11.30** Pooh Corner (54828044) **12.00** Quack Attack (91608334) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24484518) **1.00** Wonderland (53773179) **1.30** Boy Meets World (24483889) **2.00** Thunder Alley (20375228) **2.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (83148150) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (88863995) **4.00** Quack Attack (88842402) **4.30** Ducktales (88849686) **5.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (20399806) **5.30** Danger Bay (88662266) **6.00** Tarzan (88869179) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88843131) **7.00** The Tortoisons (20379044) **7.30** Flipper (91868082) **8.30** Making of Blue Yonder (20374599) **9.00-10.00** Entertainment Special (37502315)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (35095) **8.30** Figure Skating (628226) **11.00** Motors (87957) **12.30pm** Formula 1 (37632) **1.00** Freestyle Skiing (87137) **2.00** Figure Skating (42850247) **4.55** News (1092711) **5.00** Aerobics (8063) **6.00** Live Figure Skating (93597111) **10.30** News (7716624) **10.30-12.30am** Football (64247)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (68334) **7.30** Racing News (48841) **8.00** Wrestling (59402) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (778889) **9.30** Skiff Sailing (14808) **10.00** Grass Roots Rugby (28556) **10.30** Inside the PGA Tour (66773) **11.00** American Sports Cavalcade (84869) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (80353) **12.30pm** FA Cup Sixth Round Replay (80957) **2.30** Pool: Moscow Cup (810112) **5.00** Wrestling (3995) **6.00** Sports Centre (7686) **6.30** Tight Lines (277781) **7.30** Netbusters (977570) **7.55** Sports Centre (630537) **8.00** Ringside Boxing on the Road — Live (72112) **10.00** Sports Centre (81082) **10.30** Rugby Club (43266) **11.30** Futbol Mundial (40711) **12.00** Rugby Union (30396) **12.30am** Ringside Boxing (94377) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (19174)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Ford Scorpio US PGa Seniors Golf (1805808) **9.00** Ford Scorpio Golf USA: Freeport Mcdermott Classic (3310247) **11.00** Tight Lines (1894792) **12.00** Netbusters (5894261) **12.30-1.00am** Sixth Sailing (5258208)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

6.15am Christliche Gemeinde Koln **6.45** Good Morning Europe **4.00** Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** Benny Hinn **5.00** Kenneth & Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** 700 Club

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5943880) **7.55** As the World Turns (6849792) **8.50** Payton Place (6199841) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7251880) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6994353)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4289334) **11.30** Great Sports Vacations (4280063) **12.00** Discover Your World (2392518) **12.30pm** Bruce Eals America (9745334) **1.00** Getaway (1884315) **1.30** Around the World . In 30 Minutes (9744605) **2.00** Lodekh (8744605) **3.00** Globetrotter (4291808) **3.30** Around the World . . in 30 Minutes (7015570) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop

Jim Carrey stars in *The Mask* (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of the Century (4270686) **5.00** Memories of 1985 (4275860) **6.00-7.00** Biography Martin Luther King (9752353)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (3167613) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2167532) **2.00** FILM Tales from the Crypt (2173366) **3.30-4.00** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (8940236)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7179957) **9.30** Grow Your Own (2605599) **10.00** Two's Country (3722421) **10.30** Our House (7168841) **11.00** Room Service (2725686) **11.30** Running Repairs (2726315) **12.00** Julia Child (7182421) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (2609315) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (5903006) **1.30** Furniture to Go (2609986) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (4518131) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders Special (6820082) **3.00** Two's Country (4537266) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6809599)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (2753583) **7.30** Neighbours (9703268) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7181792) **8.30** EastEnders (7180063) **9.00** The Bill (7171315) **9.30** The Sullivans (2607957) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7808632) **11.00** Bullseye (2727044) **11.30** Odd One Out (2728773) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7191179) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2601773) **1.00** EastEnders (3108024) **1.30** Sykes (1955266) **2.10** Brush Strokes (1656044) **2.50** Butterflies (7281570) **3.30** The Bill (6801957) **4.00** Casualty (16824082) **5.05** Every Second Counts (3170247) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo (1433599) **6.25** EastEnders (6350112) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (9983570) **8.00** Bullseye (4530353) **8.30** Home James (4519960) **9.00** Minder (9912082) **10.00** The Bill (1419976) **10.35** Bottom (2920228) **11.10** The Sweeney (3667150) **12.15am** Classic Sport (1206551) **1.10** Public Eye (2491377) **2.05-3.30** Shopping (58577254)

TCC

6.00am Amazing Live Sea Monkeys (18711) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (92566) **7.00** Ready or Not (35402) **7.30** California Dreams (54537) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (14334) **8.30** Degrassi Junior High (13605) **9.00** Eek the Cat (65437) **9.30** Garfield and Friends (41976) **10.00** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (27995) **10.30** Where's Wally? (93841) **11.00** Oscar's Orchestra (87570) **11.30** Dinobabec (95599) **12.00** Barney and Friends (17421) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (27599) **1.30** Sesame Street (28228) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (9565) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (3773) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (5860) **4.00** California Dreams (4995) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (9709)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (4418957) **6.15** Blue (277179) **6.45** Toucan Tex (8787976) **7.00** Batfink (5185137) **7.05** Grimmy (4727044) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (265334) **8.15** Aaaah! Real Monsters (4161570) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (84179) **9.00** Alvin & the Chipmunks (68131) **9.30** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (37650) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (75995) **11.00** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon (55131) **12.00** Magic School Bus (88995) **12.30pm** Grimmy (16266) **1.00** Global Guts (66247) **1.30** Visionaries (15537) **2.00** Dungeons and Dragons (10570) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (7957) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (9044) **4.00** The Ferals (8179) **4.30** Rugrats & Doug (7063) **5.00** Sister Sister (2402) **5.30** Nancy Drew (8315) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (5228) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (9808)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6811334) **4.30** Charlie Bravo (6817518) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4532711) **5.30** Terra X (6891570) **6.00** Voyager (6821711) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (7218452) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (6818247) **8.00** The Professionals (9990860) **9.00** Top Marques (2738150) **9.30** Flightline (2629179) **10.00** Classic Wheels (9913711) **11.00** Shipwreck! (2740965) **11.30-12.00** Shipwreck! (3728605)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Dowl Girl from Mars (3278334) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (2695112) **2.00** Department S (3727976) **3.00** Danger Man (2724957) **4.00** FILM: Kelly's Heroes (2479880) **6.30** Department S (9314286) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6805773) **8.00** Planet of the Apes (9994686) **9.00** Twin Peaks (9907150) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Love and Bullets (2723229)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Beauty and the Beast (90518) **8.00** Entertainment (8686) **8.30** Wings (3191) **9.00** Soap (52860) **9.30** Laverne & Shirley (96402) **10.00** Entertainment (89624) **10.30** Dr Katz (65044) **11.00** Ren & Stimpy (64605) **11.30** The Guyver (48353) **12.00** Rocky and Bullwinkle (38938) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (81532) **1.00** Wings (87990) **1.30** Soap (34396) **2.00** Laverne & Shirley (38209) **2.30** Entertainment (17716) **3.00** Dr Katz (57434) **3.30-4.00** Ren & Stimpy (31396)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (9304063) **7.00** Kilroy (1806421) **8.00** Esther (8294995) **8.30** Going to Pot (8283268) **9.00** Gourmet Ireland (9753402) **9.35** Kate & Allie (5724976) **10.05** Jerry Springer (6357976) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8931605) **11.55** Brookside (2489222) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7602266) **1.25** Crosswits (7001247) **2.00** Agony Hour (5311402) **3.00** Live at Three (4755247) **4.00** Infatuation UK (4128112) **4.30** Crosswits (6015119) **5.05** Lingo (23161402) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4148976) **6.00** Bewitched (4145889) **6.30** Brookside (6787179) **7.05** A Cook's Tour of France II (9256131) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (4217421) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (1462957) **9.00** FILM: Courage (34002353) **11.35** Late at the Office (6551806) **11.50-12.00** Entertainment Now! (4430173)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Ocean Odyssey (5518) **5.30** Night Hood (606268) **5.55** Batman (641889) **6.30** Catchphrase (5824) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (8062) **7.30** My Two Dads (1808) **8.00** Mckenna (14112) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Murder Being Once Done (34976) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (37063) **11.00** Sirens (44150) **12.00** Night Hood (74754) **12.30am** Mighty Jungle (34648) **1.00** Batman (23716) **1.30** GP (74984) **2.00** The Black Stallion (74025) **2.30** African Skies (53532) **3.00** GP (36

New faces called up by England

Venables offers youngsters chance to shine

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE morning after England was downgraded from club class, following Nottingham Forest's exposure in Europe, Terry Venables turned to youth. The England coach's squad for the match against Bulgaria at Wembley next Wednesday includes Robbie Fowler, 20, and the Neville brothers, Gary, 21, and Philip, 19. These players represent, possibly, an attempt to skip a generation and follow the impressive example of Holland, whose deployment of the Ajax teenagers has so impressed Venables.

On the other hand, Venables went to the other end of the age spectrum, recalling Mark Wright, the Liverpool centre back, for his first appearance in an England squad for four years. Perhaps Venables is looking for omens: the Neville brothers, of Manchester United, are the first players from the same family to be called to England colours since Jack and Bobby Charlton, those twin pillars of the 1966 World Cup triumph, last played together in the 1970 World Cup.

Philip Neville, now the baby of the new England gathering, has shown such a reliable temperament, such rapid maturity, that he can indeed make an instant challenge for England's troubled left back position. The injury to Graeme Le Saux, and the ageing of Stuart Pearce, obliges the coach to look for an alternative. Venables said of Philip Neville: "He's in there on performances. I've watched him get better and better, and his progression has been just like his brother a year ago."

Brother Gary, a veteran now of six internationals, has shown the versatility to operate at right back or centre back, his preferred position, for Manchester United. There is an easy answer to those who doubt the wisdom of including a teenager in his country's most important competition in three decades. If Philip Neville were to play in the European championship in June, he might well oppose Patrick Kluivert, also 19, but a fixture as the Dutch centre forward. And, Paolo Maldini, the finest left back in the world, was an Italy World Cup player before the age and experience the younger Neville has acquired so far. Certainly the old country needs some fresh blood.

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), I Walker (Tottenham), T Flowers (Blackburn), R Jones (Liverpool), S Howey (Newcastle), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), P Neville (Man Utd), M Wright (Liverpool), G Southgate (Aston Villa), U Ehiogu (Aston Villa), G Neville (Man Utd), S Stone (Nottingham Forest), T Sinclair (QPR), J Redknapp (Liverpool), P Gascoigne (Rangers), D Platt (Arsenal), P Ince (Inter Milan), D Wise (Chelsea), P Beardsley (Newcastle), R Fowler (Liverpool), A Shearer (Blackburn), L Ferdinand (Newcastle), E Sheringham (Tottenham), R Lee (Newcastle), S McManaman (Liverpool), N Barmby (Middlesbrough).

League plans relegated . 44
Brothers united 45

At the City Ground on Tuesday night, the defining moment of Nottingham Forest's awful collapse against Bayern Munich came when Pearce, their left back and captain, galloped forward. The crowd roared on their dependable war-horse, but the ball was never under his control, and Lothar Matthäus, deemed too old for the Germany side, simply waited for him, waited and took the loose ball away.

Matthäus had commented that the game would be "heart against technique", and we all know which quality tends to be lacking in the English.

Nothing, so far as we yet know, is lacking in Fowler. He will come of age on April 9, but already he has scored 79 goals in 122 first team starts for Liverpool, already he looks the most instinctive sniffer of goals in this land since Jimmy Greaves. Fowler through England's youth and Under-21 teams, has appeared to be able to perform in harness with any partner, or none, and so Venables's decision not to select Stan Collymore, his Liverpool running mate, should not dent the young man's confidence. Indeed, you never know, Fowler may even cajole Alan Shearer into finding the net for England for the first time in well over a year.

Two players return to the fold, David Platt, who at last is beginning to look fit now that he is back with an English club, and Paul Ince who, as anticipated, is out of purdah so far as the England coach is concerned.

Back, after a much, much longer period in the wilderness, comes Mark Wright. What a remarkable achievement it will be if he regains the England shirt which he wore 45 times, reaching heights at the 1990 World Cup in a three-man central defence. Two other players who know how to operate that system, Tony Adams and Gary Pallister, are both absent through injury. "What this is," Wright said yesterday, "is me getting the call because Adams, Pallister and Southgate have all been injured. Now it's up to me to try to make it difficult for the management to leave me out once I get a chance."

He knows the script well, for last year he was chosen only six times for Liverpool, and he admits he lapsed into despair. He was talked out of that by the singer Joey Marsden, who, being a good neighbour, told him he had precious ability, precious years left in his almost 33-year-old frame, and that it was a crime to mope and waste the skill that Marsden and many millions more would love to possess.

If Wright were to take a step back in time for England, if the youngsters Venables shows every sign of trusting take that leap forward, then maybe the present generation's lack of skills can be minimised. Bulgaria, next week, will be the first test.



Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain and England flanker, takes the boys of Cumnor House School, Purley, through their paces yesterday. The training session was a reward for the boys collecting £400 for the sporting charity, Sparks. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Emburey considers retirement option

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN EMBUREY could be forced to retire from first-class cricket even though he was cleared to resume his playing career by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) at Lord's yesterday. Emburey, 43, who left Middlesex during the winter to become the Northamptonshire coach, has been told he can only play on as a list one registration.

Emburey, who won his 64th Test cap last summer, has been confirmed as list one because he was offered a two-year contract by Middlesex. Northamptonshire must now decide whether Emburey's continuing ability as an off spinner is worth securing on one of only two list one registrations that are allowed in any five-year period.

Retirement may be the option, as the TCCB registration committee said it would "consider the matter again as and when Emburey decided to retire from first-class cricket and his registration was cancelled". Freed of list one status, Emburey could then be available to play on a part-time basis. Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, said: "We will have to sit down with John during the coming weeks and review how it leaves us."

Andrew Symonds, 20, the English-born Australian batsman, who turned down a place on the England A team tour to pursue a place in the Queensland side, has indicated that he is prepared to sign a three-year contract with Gloucestershire.

Symonds has failed to displace Allan Border, the 40-year-old former Australia captain, from the Queensland side and is reported to have told friends that he now considers his future lies in England. Philip August, the Gloucestershire chief executive, said: "Obviously, we would love to have him back here. He has a contract offer in front of him, but we have not had it back signed yet."

Worcestershire have signed Amjad Mohammad, a left-arm Paul Adams-style bowler of chinamen, on a one-year contract. John Chad, the Worcestershire chairman, said: "It's an exciting gamble."

Peter Willey, the former England batsman, will umpire an overseas Test match for the first time when he stands in the first Test match between West Indies and New Zealand in Barbados on April 19. Willey is a new England appointment to the International Cricket Council (ICC) international panel alongside George Sharp, the former Northamptonshire wicket-keeper. They replace Nigel Plews and Harold Bird. Mike Denness, the former England captain, will also make his first appearance as an ICC referee for the five one-day internationals and the two Test matches, in Barbados and Antigua.

Brian Lara has dropped out of the University of the West Indies Vice-Chancellor's XI, which opens the tour against the New Zealanders in Bridgetown, with a sore knee amid rumours that he had a heated row with Dennis Waight, the West Indies physiotherapist, on the return journey from the World Cup. Andrew Sealy, the secretary of West Indies Cricket Board of Control, admitted receiving a letter from Waight, with the West Indies since 1979, but would not elaborate on the contents.

Ottis Gibson, 27, the Glamorgan all-rounder has been ruled out of the series because of a persistent groin injury.

Rodman airs his opinion

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HEAD-BUTTING a referee? Taking on the United States National Basketball Association (NBA) hierarchy? So what. Dennis Rodman was not about to admit that he was wrong; so Chicago Bulls did it for him.

Yet, even as the team's damage-control department prepared, on Tuesday, a statement of apology with Rodman's name on it, the volatile — and non-repentant — forward used his radio show to charge the NBA with treating him unfairly and to insist that he is "no psycho problem child".

"I've been holding back, holding back," Rodman said on WMVP-AM, which pays him to go on air twice a week. "I'm very emotional and very high-strung about certain things, but, when you've been tested and pushed so much in every game, it's hard to hold back.

"It's hard for me to change. What am I doing in the game that no one else is doing? People hold me, people pin me down, people hit me, people do everything to me. I don't get a fair shake. I don't give a damn if I'm Dennis Rodman or Michael Jordan or Scottie Pippen or Charles Barkley, you don't just put somebody out and say 'Let's make him the example.'"

Rodman, who has served two games of his six-game suspension, went on to tell his radio audience that he would like a private audience with David Stern, the NBA commissioner, so that he could ask him "what's the difference between me and everybody else in this league"?

Stern and Rod Thorn, his senior vice-president, suspended Rodman for head-butting Ted Bernhardt, the referee, during the game at New Jersey on Saturday. Rodman, who has challenged officials for years, also knocked over a cooler, stripped off his jersey and shouted obscenities; then, he dared Stern and Thorn to suspend him.

Embarrassed by the incident, the Bulls presented a written apology to the media and attributed it to Rodman.

McMillan lures Hamed with £1m

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BACKERS of Colin McMillan are offering to put up £1million to match the Barking featherweight with Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion. Frank Maloney, McMillan's promoter, said he was prepared to share the show with Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter. The offer would depend on how McMillan performed in his next two contests, Maloney added.

McMillan, who recently boxed for nothing as a protest at being frozen out, stopped Justin Murphy, of Brighton, in four rounds. He meets the durable Birmingham featherweight, Peter Buckley, tonight at the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre and then challenges Johnjo Irwin, the British champion, on May 14. McMillan, 30, a former WBO featherweight champion, was not only confident of dealing adequately with Buckley and Irwin but also of ending Hamed's unbeaten run.

"Naz is a terrific fighter. I've always said that," McMillan said yesterday. "But the way he's been talking he's been setting himself up to get his bubble burst and I'm the man to do it."

Maloney said, however: "All Hamed is doing is building enemies for himself. The way he's behaving and the way he shouts his mouth off is disrespectful to other opponents."

Hamed has met Buckley twice, in 1992 and 1994. The first time Hamed won on points but stopped the Birmingham man in four rounds in their second meeting. However, even though the second bout in Cardiff was a one-sided affair, Buckley seemed to be absorbing Hamed's punches without showing any signs of going down. Thus, the bout tonight would be a reasonable indicator of how McMillan might fare against the world champion from Sheffield.

Also on the card, Mickey Cantwell, of Eltham, meets Keith Knox of Scotland. If he wins, Cantwell hopes to meet the winner of the WBO world flyweight championship bout between Jake Matlala, of South Africa, and Paul Weir of Scotland.

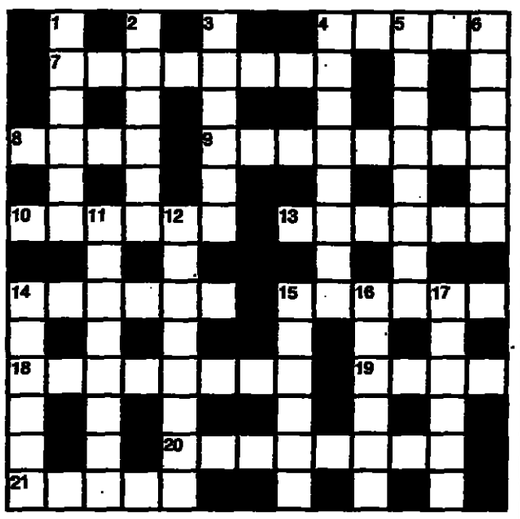
Cantwell, who had financial trouble last year and had his house in south London repossessed, said: "I've got no home, no grief and am happy that the pressures are off. I'll walk into the ring with no worries. It'll be a hard fight against Knox."



McMillan: offer

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 735 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
4 Lukewarm (5)
7 Hawaii capital (8)
8 A clamp; in place of (4)
9 Big shop (8)
10 Bumble's parish job (*O. Twist*) (6)
13 Severity; precision (6)
14 Leave off (from) (6)
15 Cheaply showy (6)
18 Outer defensive tower (8)
19 Mountain pool (4)
20 Devoted to wife (8)
21 Skull cavity linked to nose (5)

DOWN
1 Selection; top-quality (6)
2 Relax, be less formal (6)
3 Wool; swindle (6)
4 Individual lesson (8)
5 Risky; a Castle (*Malory*) (8)
6 Gable/window in sloping roof (6)
11 He *came down like the wolf on the fold* (Byron) (8)
12 Sweet and delicious (8)
14 Fragments of wreckage (6)
15 Best clothes, adornments (6)
16 Book creator (6)
17 Harry, badger (6)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

SOLUTION TO NO 734
ACROSS: 1 Cub reporter 8 Paste 9 Wexford 10 Debt 11 Blinkers 13 Keynes 14 Impugn 17 Diaspora 19 Mush 22 Airdrop 23 Yquem 24 Dishevelled
DOWN: 1 Cupid 2 Best buy 3 Ewer 4 Orwell 5 Taxonomy 6 Rhône 7 Odds-on 12 Hesperus 13 Kidnap 15 Unusual 16 Triple 18 Acrid 20 Humid 21 Pyre

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